



Preview

Ar. London's fringe theatres as for the average West End theatregoer? Today's Preview, the 16-page guide to entertainment and the arts in Britain, identifies the best, brightest and the most provocative members of the volatile fringe scene. Preview also contains full information about films, theatre, music, exhibitions, family outings, sport and broadcasting in the coming week.

Leyland strike uproar

Strikers at the Leyland truck plant in Lancashire are to return to work on Monday after a mass meeting which ended in uproar when a conveyor announced a vote to continue the action. The verdict was later reversed. Colleagues at Chorley are also ending their strike. Workers at Barchane in Scotland vote today.

Tube disaster in Moscow

Many workers were killed or injured when a staircase collapsed during the rush-hour at the Aviamotornaya Underground station in northern Moscow on Wednesday evening. The station is on a recently opened line.

£1m boost for London Zoo

The London Zoo, which asked for government aid last year after reporting a £550,000 deficit for 1980, is to receive an emergency cash advance "not expected to exceed" £1m, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in the Commons.

Football chiefs facing their crisis

Crisis in football is a full-page analysis of the problems facing Football League chairmen at their seminar in Solihull this weekend.

Kincora inquiry

A public inquiry chaired by a High Court judge will investigate the circumstances of the homosexual scandal at Kincora boys' home, Belfast, when police investigations are concluded, Mr James Prior told MPs.

Madrid trial

Spanish police have been placed on maximum alert for the court martial which begins in Madrid today of three Army generals accused of plotting the overthrow of democracy in Spain a year ago.

Share scramble

The Amersham International phase issue was more than 20 times oversubscribed. Cheques for the issue totalling more than £1,000m put through the banking system caused a short age of bank funds.

TROUBLED ALLIES

In the final article in a series on the state of the Atlantic Alliance, James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, argues that the effectiveness of Nato will always be in doubt while America and Western Europe view the world in such different ways.

In The Times tomorrow

In the country with Susan Hill: The distinguished novelist brilliantly evokes rural life in the first of a series of articles from her forthcoming book, *The Magic Apple Tree*. The Great European Eaters: Gert von Paczensky begins his side of a combined gastronomic tour of Britain by eating at Inverloch Castle, Inverness-shire. The George Washington Scandal: Marcus Cunliffe, the historian, disentangles the man from the myth.

Leader page, 11

Letters: On the rail settlement, from Mr R. J. W. Crabbe, and others; child and parent from Dr A. M. McWhinnie, and Mr K. Campbell.

Leading articles: Spain; railways; gas and electricity prices. Features, pages 9, 10.

The Budget measures that could bring £7,000m investment and 300,000 new jobs; David Watt puts the case for a money-saving missile; schoolboy speculation on the United States stockmarket, by Peter Watson.

Obituary, page 12. Dame Ngalo Marsh, Dr Francoise Henry.

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De Lorean set to call in receiver for rescue bid

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Agreement on a voluntary receivership for the De Lorean car company in Belfast was expected in government circles last night after talks between ministers and the company's board resumed at the Northern Ireland Office in London.

Mr De Lorean's company in its present form followed a day of confusion and rapidly-summoned meetings in the Northern Ireland office in London (David Hewson writes).

At the end of the day, Mr Cork said: "There is every chance that the jobs in Northern Ireland will carry on."

There is hope for the company and Mr Prior thinks there is hope for the company. Motor industry sources last night speculated that, although Mr Prior may not be willing to inject new cash support, he may provide some loan guarantees.

Certainly he has come under concerted pressure in the past few days both from within the province, and from some of the mainland suppliers to De Lorean, who would be badly hit by the company's closure.

The car firm now employs 1,500 workers, but as many as 3,000 jobs could be lost elsewhere as a result of its failure.

Further job losses at De Lorean will be a desperate blow to Northern Ireland, where unemployment in January ran at 115,337 or 19.7 per cent of the workforce.

But that figure hides pockets of 40 per cent male unemployment in some parts of depressed Catholic West Belfast from where the car plant draws a fair proportion of its workers.

Job losses at De Lorean would be multiplied down the line among the car company's 200-plus suppliers. The unions and the company estimate that up to 1,000 jobs in Northern Ireland and at least three or four times that number on the mainland may depend on the company.

Photograph, back page

Parker defends his decision to pay up

By David Felton

British Rail last night mounted a strong defence of its decision to pay the three per cent increase to striking footplatemen and denied accusations of retreat by yesterday's news of the rail formula which ended the strikes.

Sir Peter Parker, the BR chairman, said that he was prepared to resign if the issue of flexible rostering is not agreed by the train drivers' union, at the end of the fresh negotiations, which open on Monday.

The executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) yesterday rubber-stamped their negotiators' acceptance of the peace formula and the decision to call off the strikes but not without last minute hiccup.

Sir Peter said on the radio that he believed the agreement, reached after 13 hours of talks at the offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), meant that the union would move away from the guaranteed eight-hour day.

That remark led the executive to delay the decision to halt the strikes and Mr Ray Buckton, Aslef's secretary, said Sir Peter's remarks had been "irresponsible". He said: "Aslef's very firm policy is against any elimination of the guaranteed eight-hour day and we shall be pursuing that policy right the way through the negotiations."

Sir Peter said the Aslef strikes had cost BR about £90m in revenue and an uncalculated sum in freight business now lost to the railways. The consequence of this could be that 3,000 more jobs will have to disappear from the industry on

top of the 7,000 redundancies already planned this year.

During Prime Minister's questions in the Commons Mrs Margaret Thatcher said: "There is too early to judge the result of the rail dispute."

Mrs Thatcher agreed with Mr Edward Gardner, Conservative MP for South Fylde, that the agreement should be phrased in plain English that everyone could understand.

Some MPs also called for Sir Peter's resignation. Mr George Gardner, Tory MP for Reigate said: "I doubt whether the travelling public will ever forgive Sir Peter Parker for this. All their sacrifices have been in vain. The only place for him and for Ray Buckton is in the railway museum."

Sir Peter indicated at a news conference that he was not prepared to stand down for the moment from his £60,000-a-year post. His contract is set to expire in May. "If we can now get moving and modernise working practices I think we have a pretty good chance of convincing the Government on all the significant things we put into railway policy last year."

Closure decision on Times next week

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Mr Rupert Murdoch, proprietor of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* yesterday indicated that a board decision on whether to close the papers would be taken on Monday.

Mr William Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades who spoke by telephone to Mr Murdoch in New York, said that he had indicated that the closure process would start on Monday unless the current negotiating deadlock over job cuts was broken.

Mr Murdoch, contacted at the New York Post, confirmed *The Times*'s version of his statement to Mr Keys.

A deadline of 10 am yesterday for applications for redundancy passed with an official statement from News International making it clear that the applications fell short of the cuts required of 600 full time jobs and 900 shifts.

That statement said that the company's offer, which laid down voluntary redundancy payments between 12 weeks wages, and a maximum of £25,000, had accordingly lapsed.

It added: "Talks with the unions are continuing. There has been movement in a number of areas but there are others where no substantial progress at all has been made. The talks, however, have been sufficiently encouraging in general for them to be continued."

Control of two titles switched back to TNL

News International yesterday switched the titles of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* back to the ownership of its subsidiary Times Newspapers Ltd after an examination by Department of Trade officials of whether the original transfer was legal.

It will now go up to the five independent national directors of the papers—who were not consulted about the transfer of the titles to News International last December—to decide whether to give their consent to any new transfer.

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday announced that the transfer decision had been reversed pending the meeting of the five of the six national directors, who are Lord Roll of Ipsden, Lord Robens of Woldingham, Lord Dacre of Glanton, Lord Greene of Harrow Weald and Sir Edward Pickering.

The transfer of the titles of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from the Thomson Organisation Ltd to News International Ltd (NIL) I attached certain conditions designed to safeguard editorial independence. Among them was that NIL should, without the consent of a majority of the independent national directors, do anything which would result in *Times Newspapers Ltd* (TNL) selling or otherwise disposing of any interest in *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*.

"I learned at the weekend of reports that *Times Newspapers Ltd* had transferred the titles of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* to its parent company NIL. This was done without the consent of the independent national directors. My Department has discussed with representatives of NIL the transfer of the titles of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from TNL to NIL. In the light of these discussions I am satisfied that the transfers were carried out on the basis of legal advice that no breach of the conditions would be involved, and that the purpose was not to achieve a situation whereby the conditions safeguarding editorial independence would be avoided."

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A few words for the Prime Minister

Brian Harris



Mrs Vi Ruffel, from Dulwich, South-east London, one of more than 800 pensioners from all over Britain who lobbied Parliament yesterday for higher pensions and other concessions. Representatives from the National Pensioners' Convention, which is sponsored by the Trades Union Congress, met the Prime Minister, but said afterwards that Mrs Thatcher had offered nothing beyond a promise to consider waiving some standing charges on fuel supplies and telephone bills.

Fighting goes on amid Hama's rubble-strewn streets

From Robert Fisk, Hama, Feb 18

The unshaven Syrian tank crews seemed almost indifferent to the two shells that burst around a cluster of buildings half a mile to the west. There were two loud reports and a dirty trickle of brown smoke began to pour from the windows of a blue-painted house.

The soldiers watched for a few moments, their battlefired covered in a grime, their eyes bloodshot from lack of sleep, then lay back to rest against their vehicles. Only the women of Hama, black-robed most of them, waiting for transport out of the besieged city in which their homes had been destroyed, seemed to care.

A girl in her twenties, with a small, round, peasant face and pale blue scarf on her head, pushed herself into our car. "I want to look for my brother," she said quietly, as if suppressing emotion. "His house was on fire. He was not there. I went to the cemetery. There were more than 100 bodies laid out but I could not find his. God be merciful." She

Car bomb kills 4

A car bomb containing half a ton of explosives devastated a 10-storey Government office block in Damascus yesterday, killing four people and injuring 40. The building houses the Syrian Ministry of Information and Al-Baath, the ruling party's newspaper. The extremist Muslim Brotherhood has killed several people with its terrorist bombs in Damascus in the past two years.

The morning sun glinted briefly off a silver-roofed mosque, its perfect dome broken by a shellhole that had left a thick black stain on the tiles.

The Syrian Government says that the fighting in Hama has ended, that only a few fanatical members of the Muslim Brotherhood remain in the old quarter of the city. But they have not permitted foreigners to enter Hama and verify this, and it is easy to see why. The city is almost empty, inhabited only by exhausted soldiers, gunmen and frightened, desperate women, its suburbs surrounded by up to 12,000 troops and its streets covered in rubble.

I drove into the battle lines this morning with two soldiers who had asked me for a lift back to their units. They claimed—with considerable justification—that after 15 days, there was no sign to an end to the fighting.

Three hundred yards from one of the ancient wooden water wheels that once made the surrounding streets in a brown mist.

There was another rumbling explosion across the ghost-like city followed by a peppering of rifle shots that sounded thin and unreal down one of the streets, as if someone had dropped a pack of cards on to a wooden table. The smoke had begun to blossom out of the buildings now, climbing upwards and smudging the

Reagan admits concern at interest rates

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 18

President Reagan said today that interest rates were one of his chief concerns, but he added at a Washington news conference that he was determined to keep deficits down. "I want to make it clear today that neither the Administration nor the Federal Reserve will allow a return to the fiscal and monetary conditions of the past that have created current conditions."

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Auction houses go it gavel and tongs

By Torin Douglas

In the best tradition of baked bean and soap powder manufacturers, Britain's two biggest auctioneers will soon be locked in an advertising battle, in which each is playing by different rules. Sotheby's is taking the stance of brand leader, with elegant understated advertisements; Christie's is promoting itself as the cheaper of the two.

Sotheby's, the world's largest auction house, is launching a £7.5m campaign this weekend to persuade the art world that is the place to auction one's valuables. So confident is the company of the value of its name, that the advertisements appearing in national newspapers and magazines will not even carry the company's address or telephone number. They will simply show an elegant blonde, whose face is never seen, admiring pieces in elegant houses, with the copy line: "You're thinking of selling? And you haven't spoken to Sotheby's?"

The contrast with the advertising campaign by Christie's, Sotheby's greatest rival, could hardly be greater. Christie's, which decided last December to cut its buyers' premium from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, is hammering home in its advertisements its 2 per cent advantage over Sotheby's.

Christie's, now an even better bid, the price-conscious headline says: "By reducing the buyer's premium by a fifth, from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, Christie's now offers the most competitive rates of any international auction house."

The advertisement ends with the pay-off line: "Christie's competes. Since 1766." Then follows the company's address. Is Sotheby's convinced that its arrogant approach is going to pay dividends in the face of its rivals' aggressively competitive campaign? Mr Barry Turner, the marketing director, is convinced that it will, although he agrees that he was doubtful about whether the Sotheby's address should be left out.

Russell Associates, Sotheby's advertising agency, argued strongly that Sotheby's should take the understated, brand leader approach. The client was convinced, apparently, by research results indicating that 90 per cent of the public recognized Sotheby's name.

Underlying the strategy, however, is Sotheby's belief that the buyer's premium is irrelevant in an advertising campaign of this type, which is aimed at increasing business through sellers.

"What we are saying in this campaign," Mr Turner says, "is that we are not only the biggest, we are also the best."

Heinz or Persil could not have put it better.

Belgravia closure, page 12

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The Doulton Wallguard treatment will put an end to your rising damp—and all the costly damage it causes!

The Doulton Wallguard ceramic tubes are installed without fuss—usually in a day. Providing an efficient, effective remedy to rising damp.

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INSTALLATIONS IN ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, NORTHERN IRELAND

Palace offended by bikini photographs of Princess

By Alan Hamilton

Buckingham Palace has taken strong exception to photographs of the Prince and Princess of Wales on holiday in the Bahamas, published in yesterday's editions of *The Sun* and *The Daily Star*. The Queen is understood to regard them as being in the worst possible taste.

The pictures, clearly taken with powerful telephoto lenses, show the Princess, who is almost six months pregnant, relaxing and swimming at a beach on the island of Windward, wearing only a brief bikini. They were taken by the two papers' specialist royal photographers, Mr Andrew Edwards and Mr Ken Lennox.

Both newspapers carried prominent front-page pictures of the plainly pregnant Princess, together with double-page spreads inside. One *Sun* picture shows the Princess applying suntan lotion to Prince

Charles's back, while the *Star* has pictures of the interior of the royal couple's holiday villa.

Mr Michael Shea, the Queen's press secretary, yesterday made a strong protest to the *Sun* and *The Daily Star*, editor of the *Star*, and Mr Lloyd Turner, editor of the *Star*, the Palace's displeasure at publication of the photographs.

The Press Council is to examine the case for a possible breach of its guidelines on privacy. Mr Kenneth Morgan, director of the council, has written to both editors urging them to justify their decisions to publish.

A report is to be considered by the council's complaints committee, although the Palace itself has not issued any formal complaint, either to the Press Council or the newspapers involved.

Mr Shea said last night that the *Star* and *Princess* were not yet aware of the publication of the pictures, but it was safe to assume that when they found out they would be "very angry". He said publication had breached the spirit, if not the letter, of a meeting between the Palace and editors

in December, when a specific request was made to newspapers and broadcasting organizations to refrain from following the Princess during the Christmas holiday at Sandringham, and at their home at Highgrove, Gloucestershire.

"No specific mention was made at that time of any holiday in the Bahamas, but the clear intention was to relieve the intense media pressure on the Princess during her pregnancy," Mr Shea said.

He was aware that both newspapers intended to cover the holiday, although he had been led to believe the *Star* was sending only a reporter.

"I did not make any specific request to either paper not to take photographs, but I did point out that it was a private holiday. It would have been reasonable to expect the spirit of our December meeting with editors to be observed," Mr Shea added.

Mr Turner, of the *Star*, attended the December meeting at the Palace, but *The Sun* did not.

Last week, at a London Press Club dinner, the Prince of Wales thanked journalists for showing more consideration to his wife in the wake of the Palace meeting.

The two newspapers today carry editorials expressing regret that the Queen and the royal couple may have been upset by the pictures. Both confirmed last night that they were withdrawing their teams from the holiday island.

Mr Turner said yesterday he had informed the Palace he was sending a photographer to cover the royal holiday. The *Star* always respected requests to stay away from the royal couple, but there had been no such request on this occasion, he said.

The Palace said last night that its switchboard had received many calls protesting at the pictures.



And think your new interest in the royal family is the worst possible taste.

about it matched later by Bobby [unclear] about the game was his life. His memories and about it matched later by Bobby [unclear]

Judge to head boys' home investigation

From Nicholas Timmins, Belfast

A High Court judge is to head a public inquiry into the scandal at Kincora boys' home in Belfast, but not until police inquiries into homosexual activities there and at other homes have been completed.

The move was announced by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday as Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, announced that a chief constable from outside was to be brought in to investigate allegations that the RUC was involved in a cover-up.

Sir John said that to allow public concern he had asked the Inspector of Constabulary to appoint an outside officer who would have access to all papers, past and present, as well as general oversight of the continuing investigations.

Mr Prior's announcement goes much of the way to meet demands for a judicial inquiry after the original investigation, held in private, collapsed last week when three of the investigating committee of five resigned, saying that the criminal aspects of the affair had still to be examined.

The inquiry's precise terms of reference and its powers will be decided after police investigations and criminal

proceedings are completed, Mr Prior said.

Five people have been jailed so far for sexual offences in boys' homes. Those include the warden, deputy warden and Mr William McGrath, a house father at Kincora, who received a total of 15 years' imprisonment for offences including buggery, gross indecency and indecent assault.

Yesterday's move were welcomed by Mr Gerard Vint, Independent Socialist MP for Belfast, West.

Mr Pitt, who has been calling for a judicial inquiry, said the RUC had responded well, but "where were they between 1961 and 1980 when allegations were first put to the authorities?"

The public inquiry was a big improvement on the previous inquiry, but he was anxious there should be no delay.

He said he also wanted the inquiry to have powers to compel those in prison, as well as Mr Colin Wallace, a former Army press officer, who is said to have told McGrath in 1975 that the Army knew that McGrath was a homosexual, to attend.

Mr Wallace is serving a prison sentence in England for a manslaughter offence

Vote protest: Leyland workers surrounding Mr Michael Coyne after his declaration of the result, yesterday.

Leyland strike ends in uproar

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Strikers at the Leyland truck factory in Lancashire are to return to work on Monday after a confused mass meeting yesterday at which the works convenor at one stage declared the vote to be overwhelmingly in favour of continuing the stoppage.

The meeting ended in uproar when Mr Michael Coyne, the convenor, announced the result. Many of the 7,500 strikers surged towards the platform, claiming Mr Coyne had misjudged the vote. He was booed and jeered for more than 30 minutes and some workers alleged that he had tried to

force the company to close.

Mr Coyne conceded afterwards that his verdict may have been "a little exaggerated" and his decision was later reversed with an announcement that the vote was in favour of ending the strike.

The final interpretation of the vote was welcomed by BL last night. It had said that continuation of the strike, over planned redundancies and restructuring of the commercial vehicle operation, would close the factories.

Workers at the Bathgate plant in West Lothian, Scotland, are to meet today. As they went on strike in support of their Leyland colleagues, it is thought they might also vote to return to work.

The BL board was standing by for an emergency meeting today and was expected to announce closures and possibly liquidation of the Leyland group if the strike votes went against the company's plans.

Meanwhile, 1,500 strikers at the Chrysler plant in Lancashire and 1,750 white collar staff have also agreed to resume work next week.

An Oxford college 'sells' two places

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

An Oxford college has agreed to accept two Hong Kong students without their taking the University entrance examination provided they get minimum university matriculation requirements of two grade Es at A level, in return for a £500,000 gift to the college from their father.

It is understood that similar deals, including ones with wealthy British parents, are being considered by other colleges in Oxford and Cambridge. Other hard-pressed universities may be tempted to follow suit.

One don at Wadham, the college in question, threatened to resign unless the college made public its agreement with Mr Lee Shau Kee, a businessman involved in land and property investment in Hong Kong.

Sir Stuart Hampshire, Warden of Wadham, has now issued a statement, saying that over the years the college had received substantial gifts from overseas benefactors who had now promised "a further very substantial benefaction" to provide student accommodation, of which the college was in urgent need.

This help is in the present situation of the highest value, particularly given government policy towards overseas students. Against this background, the college will be pleased to admit two children of the benefactor, subject to their meeting the university admission requirements," Sir Stuart said. No student would be excluded because of those admissions, he added.

The only admission requirement for Oxford is the minimum matriculation qualification.

There is no rule to prevent a college from accepting any student for whatever reasons, provided he satisfies the minimum requirements. Nor is there any rule to prevent a college from accepting money in return for a student place.

However, Mr Peter Gwyn, a research fellow in history at Wadham, said last night: "This is the unacceptable face of Oxford. It is not a finishing school for millionaires."

"But if you are going to do it, it is absolutely right that it should be made public. Perhaps Oxford should introduce a special category of students: children of wealthy benefactors."

"If you are going to allow any student to enter Oxford because their parents are prepared to give large sums of money, the notion that Oxford or Cambridge is an academic place goes out of the window."

Science report

Inuit is not a choosy eater, study shows

By Tony Samstag

When the interests of indigenous people in wilderness areas come into conflict with the aspirations of the developers, the outcome is usually predictable.

The experience of the Inuits (Eskimos) of northern Quebec may be the exception that proves the rule, however, and the process provides a valuable lesson in the compatibility of development and conservation.

In 1974 the Inuits and Cree of the region stopped the building of a large hydroelectric complex because of its probable effect on traditional hunting and fishing territories.

A year later, an agreement was signed by all parties to the dispute specifying that future projects take into account the need to preserve the hunting, trapping and fishing rights of the Inuits, and on a wider scale to protect the ecological system in the region.

This "sovereign study" programme was launched to gather the necessary data as permitted harvest levels and routine environmental assessment techniques. About half way into the programme, some interesting facts emerged.

The Inuits of northern Quebec harvest more than 3.4 million lb of protein each year, or enough for about 340 million people a day. This represents 28 species of mammals, fish and birds, of which 5 supply more than three quarters of the total by weight: 17,000 ringed seals (19.8 per cent), 134,000 caribou (19.3), 546 muskrats (10.9), and 1,400 bearded seals (9.6).

The study programme in date has also yielded basic data on hunting territories by species and seasons. Detailed interviews with individual hunters, and estimates of land-use intensity. Field studies have been carried out in the Inuit communities of Repulse, River, Fort Chip, George River and Akulivik. The next phase of the study is likely to produce comprehensive ecological maps.

Source: *World Wildlife Fund* Project 1204 Canada, Land Use Resource Use: among Inuits (WWF, Panda House, 11-13 Oxford Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1QU free.)

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Court curb on Minster homes plan

A High Court judge yesterday granted a temporary injunction preventing the borough council, Humberston, from considering an application for detailed planning permission for a housing estate near the Minster (John Young writes).

The scheme by the St Andrew Street Housing Co-operative has caused prolonged controversy, and was the subject of a number of letters to *The Times* last year.

As well as complaints that the development would ruin a historic and cherished view, there were allegations that the council had acted improperly. They were supported by the local Ombudsman, who accused the council of maladministration.

Jobless cost up by £420m

The Treasury disclosed yesterday that it had provided an extra £420,000,000 for supplementary benefits and supplementary pensions for the present financial year, giving a total estimated expenditure of £4,983m for the year.

A large proportion of the increase was accounted for by the fact that more people have remained unemployed for longer than expected.

Tories' new plea for invincibility

A further protest against the proposed sale of HMS Invincible was made by 20 Conservative backbenchers in a Commons motion last night.

They said they viewed the proposal with alarm and called on the Government to allocate additional resources, estimated at £170m to the Ministry of Defence.

The flu virus: A miserable miscalculation

In yesterday's report on the influenza epidemic, an accompanying diagram said 20,000 of the A-strain of the virus could fit in the area of the black square above. The artist greatly underrated the virus—indeed the diagram was out by some 3,599,980,000, since about 3,600 million can fit in this area.

The diagrammist apologises to all influenza sufferers; and the medical correspondent who was not responsible for the error—reports the better news that this year, because the strain has shown little variation from last year, the vaccine used by commercial companies is expected to give 70 per cent protection. [The vaccine, to be effective, must have been given one month before exposure to infection, and young people and others who had few previous attacks are advised to have two injections.]

Police look into WRP youth centre

By Michael Horsnell

Special Branch officers are to investigate the activities of a training centre for unemployed young people run by the Workers' Revolutionary Party less than a mile from some of the worst rioting in Liverpool last summer.

Downing Street confirmed yesterday that the Prime Minister has asked the Home Office for a report into allegations that the party encouraged young people in anti-police methods and indoctrinated them with extreme revolutionary views.

At the centre of the controversy is a rundown former fudge factory with metal grilles, barring the windows and a sign proclaiming "Youth Training" in Gloucester Place, Edge Hill. The two-storey building, which is soundproofed, was taken over by an organization called Youth Training to provide training opportunities for unemployed young people last March, after a successful planning application to Liverpool City Council on Youth Training notepaper which listed Claire Dixon as secretary and Vanessa Reigra, a leading WRP member, as chairman.

Inquiries by *The Times* suggest that at political meetings run by the WRP young unemployed people were harangued by speakers advocating no-go areas for the police, the establishment of local militias and an end to the capitalist system.

Jane Hardy, aged 16, who was originally enticed to the centre by the prospect of drama lessons, claims that some of the youths who attended later took part in the Toxteth riots, using citizens' band radios to warn rioters of police manoeuvres.

Youngsters were also asked to sell newspapers supporting the WRP and collect donations for the centre. They are likely to speak to Mr Stuart Carter, a WRP supporter in his early 20s, who is said to be responsible for the building and who encouraged Miss Hardy to attend the centre with a number of her friends.

Miss Hardy (whose real name is being withheld at her request) said she was at a discotheque in a school near the WRP offices in the South-east, was visited at home by Mr Carter who invited her to a meeting. She says it was packed with about 40 people from Manchester, Birmingham and Runcorn from the age of 11 to 24 who listened to calls for no-go areas for the police and a new form of government.

None of the WRP officials in London and Liverpool including Mr Carter was available for comment on several occasions that *The Times* tried to get in touch with them.

But in an article in the WRP newspaper, *News Line* last week, Claire Dixon the party's youth wing Young Socialists' national secretary, said: "We must mobilize a massive youth movement, a revolutionary youth movement. . . . There is no peaceful road to socialism—only the violent revolution of the youth socialist movement to lead the struggle for power, to put an end to Thatcher and her rotten capitalist system."

Irish voters move to new contest

From Richard Ford, Dublin

As the votes cast in the general election were being counted today, Irish eyes were turning to an arguably more important contest tomorrow. The rugby international between Ireland and Scotland, which offers the tantalizing prospect of bringing the triple crown to the Irish Republic for the first time in 33 years, is attracting big interest, with £3 tickets selling at £50 on the black market.

A victory is the result that really matters to any Irishman, whatever his politics. Even Fine Gael, with a touch of flair, has got in on the act with an advertisement on the back page of a Dublin evening newspaper declaring: "FitzGerald to lead Ireland to victory. Vote for Ireland's winning team. Vote Fine Gael."

It is not lost on anyone that the captain of Ireland's rugby team has the same name as the Prime Minister.

The first election result will be known this afternoon. However, it could be tomorrow before any clear victor emerges.

Nominations closed last night for the Belfast, South, by-election on March 4 with eight candidates in the field.

In spite of pleas for unity after the seat became vacant with the murder of the Reverend Robert Bradford, the Official Unionist MP, in November, both the Official Unionists and the Jan Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party are fielding candidates.

Filly under restraint bit off its tongue

From Arthur Osman, Lichfield

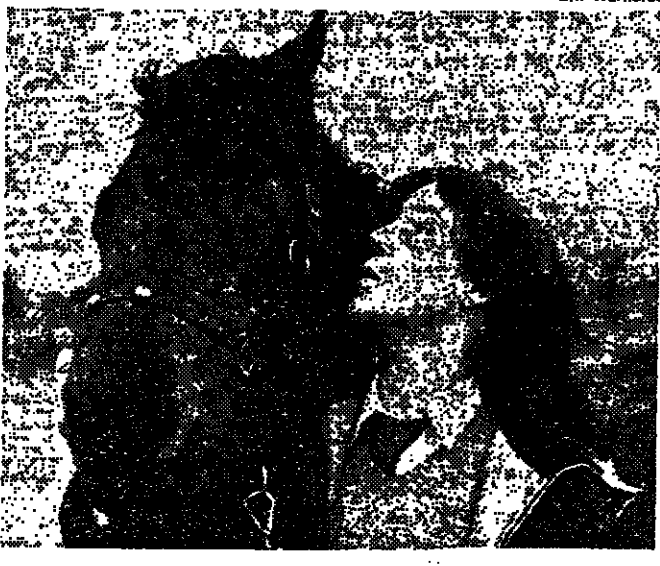
A two-year-old bay filly bit off more than five inches of its tongue when it reared while a farrier was holding the tongue to restrain the animal. He was restraining the filly so that his colleague could trim its hooves, Lichfield magistrates were told yesterday.

The witness said that the tongue was guillotined by the filly's incisor teeth. Mrs Janet Roberts, the horse's owner, said: "When they started she was in one piece and when they finished I had five and a half inches of her tongue in my fridge at home."

Alan Ashford, aged 32, of Barnetts Lane, Brownhills, West Midlands, was found guilty of causing the animal unnecessary suffering. His father, William Kenneth Ashford, aged 57, of Ogley Road, Brownhills, was found guilty of aiding and abetting him. They were each fined £350 and were also ordered to pay £140 costs each.

Expert witnesses called by the RSPCA, which brought the case, told the court that they would not have used such a method of restraint.

The filly, named Warlock Blue Sky is a granddaughter of the Queen's champion Cleveland bay, Mulgrave Supreme. It can no longer graze and has to be hand fed from a bucket by Mrs Roberts and her daughter, Jane, aged 13, who live at Medway Street, Chasewater, West Midlands.



Jane Roberts with the mutilated filly, Warlock Blue Sky.

Prisons may have duty solicitors

By Frances Gibb

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, has told the Prison Department to reconsider setting up a duty solicitor scheme in prisons, after representations from MPs and from Lord Benson, chairman of the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

Initially, the Home Office's prison department had rejected the idea of a pilot scheme for duty solicitors to work on a rota basis in prisons, as proposed by the Manchester Legal Services Committee, a group of lawyers and laymen monitoring legal services in the area.

It also rejected a proposal from Wandsworth Legal Resource Project to set up a lawyers' surgery, where one or two solicitors would work full-time in Wandsworth prison.

The reason in both cases was that although the Home Office did not object in principle, it was unwilling to embark on experiments which would make further demands on staff.

But in a letter to Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, chairman of the all-party parliamentary penal affairs group, Mr Whitelaw states: "I am asking my officials to examine carefully the practicalities of mounting an experimental scheme, or schemes, precisely to test the extent of the effect it would have on our resources and to make an assessment of the extent of unmet demand for legal services of this kind in prisons."

He emphasizes that the objective is to provide legal advice on matters arising outside the prison, and not worries or complaints over prison treatment.

Rail peace formula

Sting in the tail for Aslef

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

away from their firm stand against Aslef. But he is unlikely to offer his resignation to the Government, at least for the time being.

If at the end of the productive negotiations with Aslef, which start next week, the railway's negotiating machinery has not been introduced for the 20,000 train drivers, Sir Peter will probably then decide to go.

British Rail's stance during the dispute has been that it was not prepared to pay the 3 per cent increase to Aslef members and gain nothing in return. On Tuesday the board decided not to accept the McCarthy inquiry report, which had been approved by all three rail unions, unless Aslef was prepared to make a clearer and more firm commitment to flexible rostering.

Yet little more than 24 hours later a joint statement was agreed by British Rail and the unions, signed by Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, and Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service (Acas), which made no mention of any commitment to introduce new rostering.

During the 13 hours of discussions at the Acas offices which went into the early hours of yesterday, Mr Murray acted with Mr Lowry as a go-between, and was responsible for drawing up the final form of words in the key paragraph of the joint statement which eventually sealed the agreement.

British Rail attaches great importance to the fact that Mr Murray signed the statement because it believes that puts the prestige of the whole union movement "on the line".

On the face of it, there seems little new in the peace formula that was not contained in the understandings on pay and productivity agreed last August, under which British Rail agreed to pay an 11 per cent increase in two stages in return for a commitment from the unions to negotiate on six productivity issues.

However, the sting of this dispute may be in the tail for Aslef.

By accepting the McCarthy report, the management and unions have agreed that the vexed issue of flexible rostering will go through the industry's negotiating machinery, culminating with a hearing at the Railway Staff National Tribunal, the "final appeal court." That body which is also headed by Lord McCarthy will rule on British Rail's proposals for the implementation rather than the principle of flexible rostering.

The management has reached agreement with the other unions on new rosters involving seven to nine-hour shifts in an eight-week cycle, linked to the introduction of the 39-hour week.

The 39-hour week is still being denied to Aslef until the new rosters are accepted and the tribunal, it is Lord

Racial bias at the Bar to be scrutinized

By Lucy Hodgson

Racial discrimination among barristers is to be investigated by a working party containing three QCs and five black barristers presided over by a High Court judge.

The move shows how seriously the Bar is taking allegations of racial discrimination in its own ranks and comes after the failure of a questionnaire sent out by the Bar's governing body a year ago which was boycotted by black barristers and others.

The working party will meet for the first time on March 1 under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Browne-Wilkinson, president of the Employment Appeal Tribunal. Other members of the working party are Mr Andrew Leggatt, chairman of the Bar, Mr Richard Scott, QC, the Bar's vice-chairman, Mr Conrad Dehn, QC, and Sir Arthur Power, QC.

The group will try to identify racial discrimination at the Bar and devise its prevention or cure. A conference will be held at Easter at Cumberland Lodge, which is supported by the Society of Black Lawyers, the Commission for Racial Equality and the Bar.

Black barristers say that it has been difficult for them to establish pupils and tenants in established chambers and they have been forced to set up their own all-black

chambers, commonly known as "ghettos".

In a recent article in the *Law Society's Gazette*, Mr Andrew Leggatt says that these chambers will not have the benefit of experienced senior members. "The chambers are among the less well-off they have no books, lack tools of the barrister's trade. These factors drive many black barristers into the lower grades of work."

The alarm about racial discrimination was first sounded in 1979 when the Royal Commission on Legal Services said that the 200 black barristers felt themselves to be outside the normal run of professional practice.

The matter came to a head when Mr Rudy Narayan, who is also on the new working party, was accused of using offensive language at a disciplinary tribunal of the Bar. He had complained of racism and was acquitted of conduct unbecoming a barrister.

Since then the Commission for Racial Equality has been taking preliminary soundings with a view to a formal investigation of the Bar. So far this has come to nothing and the recent moves by the Bar to establish pupils and tenants in established chambers and they have been forced to set up their own all-black

Alliance plans PR Bill

By Anthony Berris, Political Correspondent

The Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance will go into the next election with legislation prepared for proportional representation.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, says in a television interview to be shown on BBC's *Newsweek* programme tonight: "We expect to prepare not just proposals, but an actual Bill before the election, so that if we come into government we will be ready to introduce a Bill."

He agrees that neither Labour nor the Conservatives would willingly renounce the present electoral system, but the alliance would not be divided from its main demand for reform.

A Marplan poll commissioned by *Newsweek* indicates a continuing slump in alliance fortunes, with only 29 per cent support, compared with 32 per cent for Labour and 34 per cent for the Conservatives.

Nevertheless, the poll conducted in January 26 with 1,000 respondents, showed 65 per cent support for a voting system which would match the number of Commons seats in direct proportion to the number of votes cast.

Mr Angus Macdonald, the former Conservative Cabinet minister who has strongly opposed pro-

portional representation, says he does not feel that his party will go along with the change.

He said: "If the alliance got any significant number of seats and neither of the two parties was willing to enter into a formal coalition, there are three things that could happen."

"Either the Conservatives could form a government and challenge the SDP to vote them down if they wanted to, or the Labour Party could do the same, or both parties could refuse to form a government and say to the alliance: 'Right you form a government and see how long you last.'"

But Mr Eric Heffer, a member of the Shadow Cabinet and of Labour's national executive, says the Conservatives are more likely to crack than Labour.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$20.25; Bahrain \$20.00; Canada \$20.00; Hong Kong \$20.00; India \$20.00; Japan \$20.00; Kuwait \$20.00; Lebanon \$20.00; Libya \$20.00; Oman \$20.00; Qatar \$20.00; Saudi Arabia \$20.00; Singapore \$20.00; South Africa \$20.00; Switzerland \$20.00; Taiwan \$20.00; USA \$20.00; UAE \$20.00; Yugoslavia \$20.00

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Cabinet seems to have shelved rating reform

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Cabinet seems to have abandoned hope of passing legislation to reform the rating system during the present Parliament. Senior ministers, after reluctantly concluding that there is not enough time to agree on an alternative system, are considering ways of presenting a revised commitment to reform at the next general election.

They accept that, having failed to come up with an answer in its previous term of office, the Government would need something more than a simple manifesto pledge for any promise of reform to carry credibility with the electorate.

One strong possibility canvassed by senior ministers is that, on the assumption that some form of consensus emerges between now and the election, a draft rating reform Bill will be included in the next manifesto.

Another, less likely option, is that that Bill would be introduced, with no prospect of enactment, in the final session of this Parliament which, if the Government runs near to its full course, would begin in the autumn of 1983.

That session will inevitably be truncated by the dissolution, and legislation on such an important subject would have no chance of getting through in time. The likelihood of a Bill in the next session starting next autumn has all but disappeared.

Ministers and most Conservative MPs are committed to rate system reform, but have found it impossible to agree on what should replace it. During the election campaign in October, 1974, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, then Opposition spokesman, made a personal pledge to abolish the rates.

The Conservative manifesto then stated: "Within the normal lifetime of a Parliament we shall abolish the domestic rating system and replace it by taxes more broadly based and related to people's ability to pay."

In the last manifesto the commitment was modified: "Cutting income tax must

Hope behind the despair of Bullwood

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Girls at Bullwood Hall, a boarding school in Essex, which has become notorious as Britain's most "violent and troubled" prison establishment, are furious about a paper issued last week which said the place should be closed.

Keep Out, a new pressure group, described Bullwood as a "dark and isolated establishment" where girls faced "a sentence of despair". But if that is the truth, it is not the whole truth, as a visit there this week established.

Dr Rowland Berry, the visiting psychiatrist who is quoted as saying that Bullwood was probably the most difficult establishment in the United Kingdom, also said it was a caring community. He told me: "Many more girls cry when they leave than when they come."

One girl, who has been in care since the age of 11, said: "This place is magic. It is just like a children's home." She was being cuddled by a motherly prison officer.

A girl, aged 16, who for criminal damage and assault on the police, showed me a letter she had written to The Times saying: "Did the report mention girls trying to prolong their stay because they become attached to staff and girls?"

She said some deliberately got into trouble to try to get their sentences extended.

The girls agree that some tattooing takes place, but they maintain that stories of other forms of self-mutilation are much exaggerated. A girl, aged 18, who admitted becoming a burglar when she was nine, said that her tattoos, done before coming to Bullwood, were "to make me look big". The girls' tattoos are examined on admission to see if others are added while they are inside.

Another 18-year-old, in for taking away a car and burglary, showed me her bandaged arm and said she had cut herself with a hairbrush "the night she came". It just came into my head. She said she did it because staff would not believe her when, on arrival, she said she had a period and so could not have a VD examination.

Dr Perry said he had come across one girl with 17 foreign bodies, needles, pins, and straightened-out paper clips, in her skin.

But staff say that to refer only to mutilation taking place without referring to what is being done about it, tells only half the story.

Mr Eric Cullen, Bullwood's senior psychologist, describes the Keep Out paper as "fragments of facts with uninformed comment". He tells how a computer has been used to help predict which girls might mutilate themselves. As a result, the incidence of self-injury has been reduced from 11 cases a week in 1979 to two a week for the last six months.

Girls most at risk are those



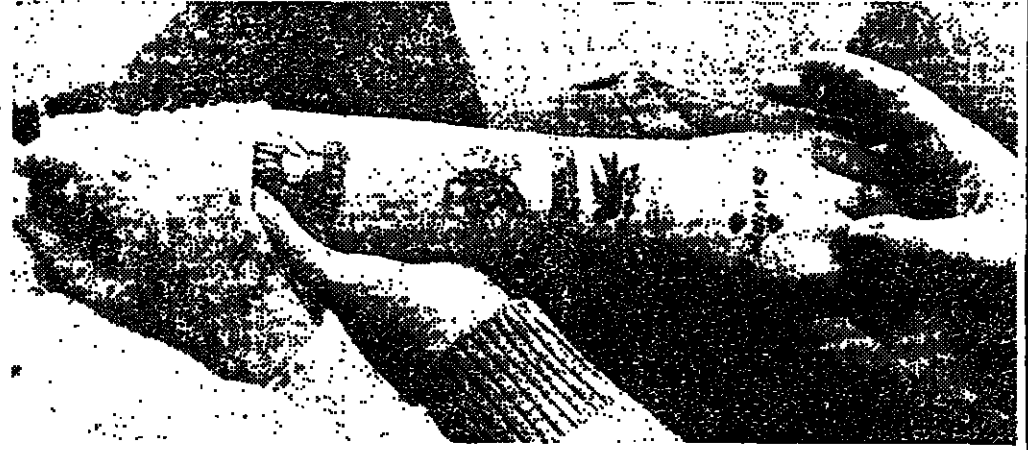
Taking care: Bullwood girls can find more attention than they get outside. Below, tattoos are inspected on arrival to monitor self-mutilation.

with a previous history of self-injury, previous institutional experience, a record of violent offences, and who have low self-esteem and a low capacity for self-expression.

The Keep Out paper says there are even cases of self-strangulation. But while there is wide concern about cell deaths in the rest of the prison service, Bullwood staff cannot recall a single case of suicide there although there have been attempts.

The girls would no doubt be easier to control if drugs were used with that in mind, but Dr Berry says: "We don't give drugs much. I don't believe drugs are useful for the control of naughty behaviour."

Instead, some of the more disturbed girls are being taught how to make letter cases to give as mother's day presents. And Dr Berry has set up a so-called "love department" (a psycho-



therapy unit) where girls are treated with more warmth and affection than might be the case outside.

Two "well known" girls about town, as Dr Berry introduced them, had 21 'O' levels between them. Another asked a prison officer for a book on neo-realism, which she is going to buy.

Perhaps the best recommendation for the job number of cards and poems girls send staff.

Forty-five per cent of the girls are reconvicted after 12 months, according to the psychologist's figures.

But there are grounds for criticism which Keep Out did not mention. Bullwood is suffering a serious staff shortage because the new Holloway Prison is being given priority after a recruiting ban.

Bullwood is a penal dustbin in the sense that nowhere else will take one of the most troubled and volatile populations in the penal system.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Anglers face curbs on trout

An outbreak of whirling disease, which makes young trout swim in circles until they die, seems to be mainly affecting Yorkshire, Humberside, Lincolnshire, Powys and Lancashire, according to a Parliamentary reply by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and food (Ronald Kershaw writes). Twenty-five cases have been confirmed in England and Wales and orders have been imposed prohibiting the movement of live fish, and eggs of fish, and foodstuffs for fish from the infected areas.

Mr Walker said he could offer no hope of the orders being lifted in time for the opening of the trout fishing season next month. Until the outbreak was detected last year there had been no record of the disease in England or Wales, although it broke out in Scotland in 1968.

School cleared on 'punishment'

Allegations that pupils at a Cornish village school were excessively punished were rejected yesterday.

It had been claimed that an epileptic girl, aged nine, had been struck by the headmaster, but an official statement described the accusation as exaggerated and inaccurate.

The accusations were made by the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp), which claimed the girl was struck across the knuckles with a piece of wood.

'Tribune' editor to advise Foot

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, has appointed Mr Richard Clements, aged 53, editor of Tribune, as his political adviser for the run-up to the next general election. (Our Political Correspondent writes).

Mr Clements, who took up his post in April, He said yesterday that he had worked with Mr Foot on the Daily Herald and had joined Tribune in 1955, when Mr Foot was editor.

Whitehouse rebuffed

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, Chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, has refused to censor Spooner's Patch, a programme about the Police made by Central Independent Television Ltd. Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, had complained that the programme presented the police as "thoroughly corrupt and promiscuous".

Shore battles on for pay-peg policy

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Labour leadership's softening-up campaign in preparation for the eventual introduction of a pay-peg policy was continued last night with a speech from Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Chancellor.

He told a Labour club meeting in Wigan that the Labour Party in Government would have to face and overcome the twin problems of inflation and unemployment.

He then quoted the 1944 White Paper on Employment Policy, which said that if a high and stable level of employment was to be maintained it would be essential for employers and workers to exercise moderation in wage matters.

Mr Shore said: "If this does not happen, then increased Government expenditure will not create jobs, but simply swell costs and raise prices. That is why relative price stability and the containment of costs, including income increases, are essential and why they are inextricably connected."

Such a policy would require price controls, tax cuts, and union cooperation, but Mr Shore failed to spell out the practicalities that would lead to the negotiation of a new social contract.

He said merely that the Conservatives would scoff at the notion of such a joint venture, but such ridicule would be directed against the ability of men and women to make a judgment of their own best interests and to commit themselves to restraint for the benefit of society.

Mr Shore's speech, a repeat of an appeal for intervention in the collective bargaining process that he made at the party conference last September, comes in the wake of an interview with Mr Michael Foot in Tribune last week, in which the Labour leader spoke of the need for pay restraint.

Dilemma on sixth forms

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

A government report on the relative costs of different systems of education for young people aged 16 to 18 is published today. But it offers no advice on whether school sixth forms, sixth form colleges, or tertiary colleges, would be most acceptable.

The report takes the form of a manual on methods of costing educational provision. It is not a guide to the costs of particular forms which would vary from area to area, the Department of Education and Science says.

In a foreword to the report, Mr William Shepton, Under Secretary of State at the department, says councils should consider costs in

Drug squad 'knew of heroin ring'

From Our Correspondent
Sheffield

A couple lived a life of luxury running a drugs "supermarket" from a rent-free flat while drugs squad officers who knew about the affair did not intervene, last September, comes in the wake of an interview with Mr Michael Foot in Tribune last week, in which the Labour leader spoke of the need for pay restraint.

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BMW chief defends price policy

By Patrick Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

The German BMW company yesterday defended its policy of charging 50 per cent more for cars in Britain than on the Continent.

Dr Walter Hasselkus, managing director of BMW (GB), said that if importers were forced to cut prices, British manufacturers would have to follow and that could be disastrous for the industry.

It would lose even more money and Ford might close its British plants he said. The loss of jobs in an industry where 330,000 workers were made redundant last year should be terrifying, he said.

Dr Hasselkus said the prices of British-built cars were high because manufacturers were not competitive on either productivity or efficiency. He added: "We importers have to price our cars accordingly or we would damage the British car industry and therefore the British economy."

Dr Hasselkus said BMW could reduce its prices in Britain by 10 per cent and still be profitable.

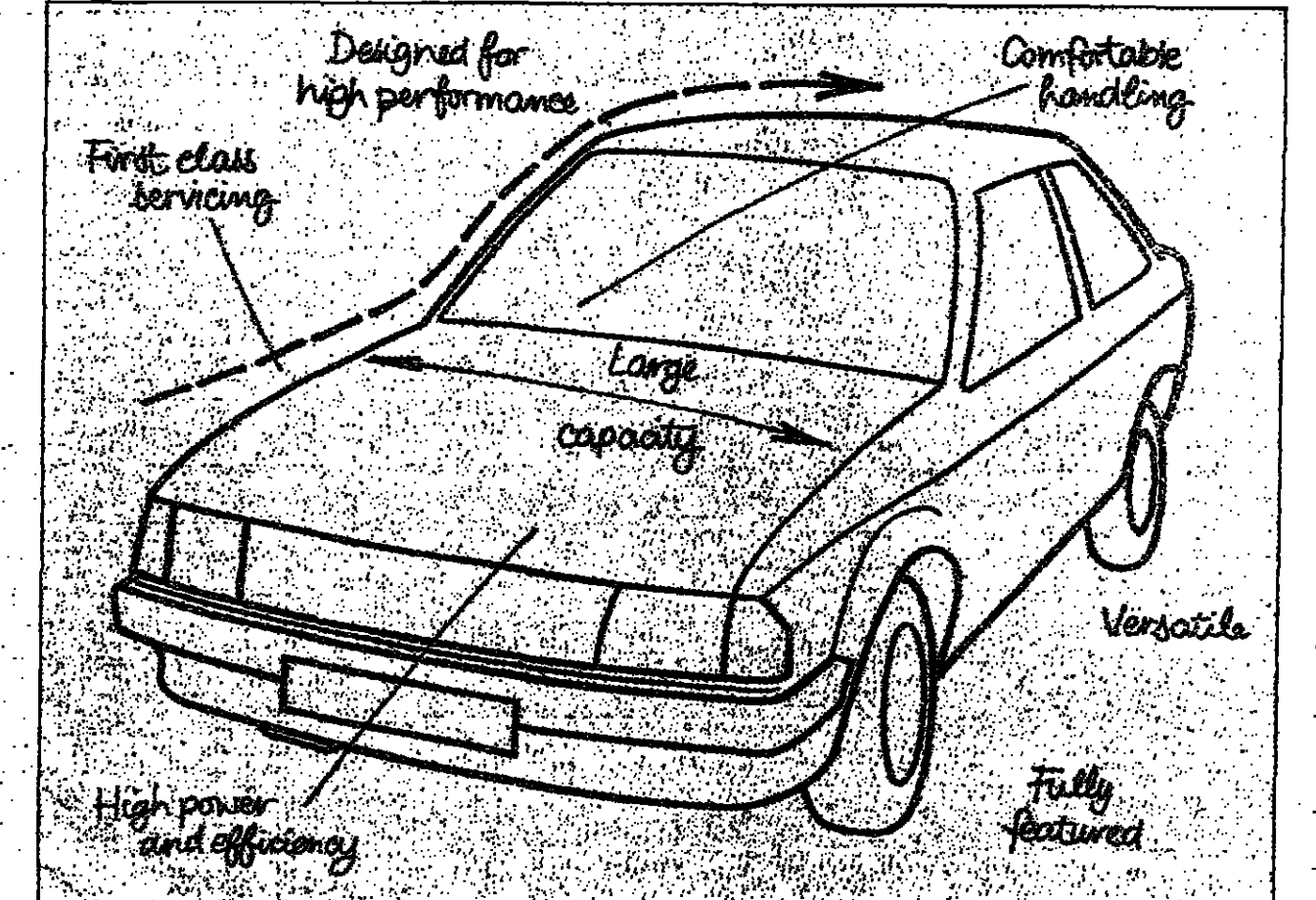
If the European Economic Community insisted on reducing price differentials, the process would have to be spread over five years to minimise dislocation to the whole European car industry.

The following table shows companies the prices of BMW cars in Britain and West Germany. The German prices have been converted to sterling at 4.5 marks to the pound.

Model	U.K.	W. Germany
320	\$7,775	\$4,958
525i	\$11,355	\$6,756
625CSi	\$18,958	\$10,258
735i	\$18,155	\$10,789

Dr Hasselkus criticized for unauthorized dealers who tried to import cheap cars from the continent for looking for profit without responsibility. He said authorized dealers had to provide an after-sales network and without profits from new cars, that would suffer. Eventually the roads of Britain would be littered with unsafe and unreliable cars.

The consumer organizations have not mentioned this aspect of buying cheap cars abroad.



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Polaris submarines face longer lives

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Britain's four Polaris submarines will probably have to serve for five years longer than originally planned if the Government, as expected, choose to buy the Trident-2 missile.

They were to have been phased out from about 1992 by when the oldest, HMS Resolution, would have completed 25 years. They would then have been replaced one by one, by new boats carrying the American Trident-1 or C4 missile.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, and his advisers at the Ministry of Defence, are convinced, however, that Britain should keep in step with the United States by adopting not the Trident-1 but the bigger, longer-range, more expensive Trident-2 or D5.

It is understood that the proposal, which has been drawn up at the ministry, envisages delaying the introduction of the new nuclear deterrent until the late 1990s.

Sources say that a decision to change to Trident-2 and the bigger submarines to carry it, would push the cost of the procurement package from the present Government estimate of £5,000m to about £7,500m.

By postponing its introduction, however, the Government would spread the cost over a longer period. That would enable the cost of the procurement to be spread over an annual average of 3 per cent of the defence budget.

The ministry would have to be convinced that the existing boats would be capable of

carrying their dangerous cargo for five or so more years. No difficulties are anticipated.

As for the missiles, the ministry is bringing the new Chevaline warhead into service this year, which should extend their capacity to penetrate to targets in the Soviet Union.

The ministry has also confirmed that a programme costing several hundred million pounds is soon to begin, to replace the rocket motors. Britain has bought a supply of Polaris stocks from the United States to keep the United Kingdom deterrent in good repair after it has been phased out of service in the United States Navy.

Case for a money-saving missile, page 10

Whitelaw says no to corporal punishment

LAW AND ORDER

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, and Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, made plain to Conservative backbenchers that the Government was not proposing to reintroduce corporal punishment.

Mr Philip Holland (Carlton, C) called for its reintroduction as a means of reducing violent crime, particularly offences of mugging in the streets.

Mr Whitelaw said that corporal punishment was abandoned in 1948 and an advisory council in 1950 found that its reintroduction would not help. It would be the only completely contrary to our international obligations and so I am not considering the possibility of its reintroduction.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend, East, C) said that shorter sentences and allied deterrents had been accompanied by a massive upsurge in crime and also appalling congestion in prisons. Why were ministers not prepared to look at corporal punishment? Since corporal punishment was abolished in 1948 the rate of crime has risen by 78 per cent in crimes of violence.

Mr Mayhew: The advisory council which reported in 1950 took account of the views of the public that corporal punishment should be reintroduced. It examined comprehensive research on the subject. As to the

deterrent effect, the council concluded that corporal punishment was not an especially effective deterrent. In many quarters it was thought a good thing when the European Court of Human Rights voted last year. We must take care we are not seen to be in favour of the part of the law that favours us.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield Hillsborough, Lab): A powerful section of the Tory Party still believes in 1982 that they can flog mankind into submission. Sir Albert Costain (Folkestone and Hythe, C): Has his attention been drawn to a letter sent to the Home Secretary by a constituent of mine suggesting that rape is such a dreadful crime that castration is the only proper remedy? Would not that be a punishment fitting the crime?

Mr Mayhew: While sympathising with the sense of abhorrence that inspired what lay behind his constituents suggestion, I think there might be certain practical problems that would attend that sentence.

Crime, particularly mugging, is a dreadful crime that elderly women and young children had soared, Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) pointed out. A number of offences committed last year.

She called for measures by which the deterrent effect of the reintroduction of discipline in

schools, the strengthening of the family unit and a greater deterrence. The more criminals there would be.

Mr Mayhew said the areas she referred to did have a bearing upon the problem of crime and its increase. The criminal justice Bill gave a substantially wider range of penalties, including custodial and non-custodial penalties to the courts.

Asked whether the punishment currently being meted out by magistrates on violent offenders were proving an effective deterrent, Mr Mayhew said: In combating violent crime, sentencing policy has an important part to play. While the deterrent effect of any sentence is not readily measurable, the Home Secretary has no doubt that magistrates are giving full weight to the principle of deterrence.

Mr Jocelyn Cadbury (Birmingham, Northfield, C): In the light of the fact that there is anxiety about the rise in violent attacks, particularly on defenceless old people, there is anxiety that the kind of punishments that are being handed out

Mr Mayhew: I am well aware of the extreme anxiety in many areas of our country at increasing violent crime. Magistrates are drawn from the community, they serve the community, and they live in the community. They are not a separate body.

Lord Chief Justice and the Court of Appeal, as are all courts.



Holland: Mugging in streets

Mr Alan Clark (Plymouth, Sutton, C) later asked if the Prime Minister has seen the evidence that mugging in certain inner cities were up by 50 per cent? Did she not also the assertion by the police that these offences were increasing, with gangs of up to 50 young blacks looting shops in Broad daylight?

As it is widely believed (he went on) that both the police and the public are becoming more and more convinced that the deterrent effect is inhibited by what are loosely termed "community relations", would she have a word with the police and the Home Secretary to see that his door is always



Taylor: Upsurge in crime

open, and suggest to him that he makes contact with those suffering in those communities, namely the victims?

Mr Thatcher: I recognise his great concern about increasing mugging and other crime, particularly in London which has revealed this morning. There has been a considerable increase in the number of police in London. We are still not up to full establishment. We are about 1,500 short of full establishment.

Further recruitment will continue because we must have sufficient police to deal with this. That is the first thing that we do. It is not enough, then, we shall have to consider increasing the establishment.

Leaders clash on pension rises

PM'S QUESTIONS

The Prime Minister repeatedly contended during question time exchanges in the Commons with Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, that the value of pensions would be retained in real terms.

Mr Foot tackled her about the meeting she was shortly to have with a delegation from the National Pensioners' Convention starting tomorrow. Would the Prime Minister confirm, he went on, that what her Government did last year was to cut by 3 per cent the real value of the pension?

Will she give an assurance (he asked) that she will restore the value of the pension in the forthcoming budget?

Mr Thatcher: I will not confirm what he says more than he would. I am not going to say that the pension will be restored in real terms. I am not going to say that the pension will be restored in real terms.

We have announced that in so far as it was last year it will be increased the following year and in so far as it was more one year ago it will be smoothed out by the following year. On the whole the value of the pension will be retained in real terms.

Mr Foot: Will she study the figures of the pensioners' convention? Last year was the first time since 1970 that there has been a cut in the value of the pension.

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labour practices and productivity has to be increased. If we get increased productivity there is a future for increased investment.

Mr Edward Gardner (South Fylde, C): The strike has made it obvious that the time has come when the chairman of British Rail and his team should now learn how to express any agreement they reach with unions or anyone else in such clear and plain language that no one can later pretend they do not understand what has been agreed. (Conservative cheers.)

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Police files defended as necessary

HOME OFFICE

There was a considerable amount of evidence that the police held files on people who had committed no crime and that there was a serious invasion of their privacy, Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk, Lab) said today. Earlier Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had rejected a suggestion from Mr Sir Douglas Mann (Maidenhead, Lab) that he should call for reports from chief constables to ascertain how many police forces, including their special branches, held files, and showing what proportion of these related to people with no criminal record.

Mr Douglas Mann asked why files on individuals were not subject to scrutiny or questioning by the Home Office. It is true, he said, that there are special branch files on over a million people. How many MPs are there? Is it the Home Secretary's job to ask the Home Office to check the files? Is it the Home Secretary's job to ask the Home Office to check the files? Is it the Home Secretary's job to ask the Home Office to check the files?

them to carry out the task placed upon them. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Opposition spokesman on home affairs: Some of the Home Secretary's slyer backbenchers are indicating that files of this sort ought to be held. Is that his own view?

Mr Whitelaw: My backbenchers are never still. Mr Kilroy-Silk asked for an assurance that in any future arrangements for the protection of the public there would be access to police files.

Mr Whitelaw: I must reserve the position until I make a statement on data protection. Mr Christopher Price (Lewisham, West, Lab): Would he agree that in principle, in data protection legislation, there should be no difference between access to electronic files held in computer files and access to manual files? Mr Whitelaw: I note what he says. I must ask him to await the statement I will make on this important subject.

Police may get fresh advice on rape cases

The Home Office is considering further guidance to the police on the interviewing of the victims of rape. Mr Timothy Wintson, Minister of State, Home Office, said. He had been asked by Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) to examine whether the Sex Offenders Act 1976 was having an inhibiting effect on the deployment of women police

officers and the duties they performed.

Mr Wintson replied: We do not consider that a review is necessary. Chief constables are able to deploy women officers on a wide range of duties. Mr McNair-Wilson: Before the 1976 Act women police were a specialist department handling crimes involving women and complaints like rape. As a result of the Act, the police have had to become an integrated force and the specialist department has been broken up.

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Summerskill: Tact and sympathy

In view of the concern about offences against women does he not feel this offence should be looked into by women officers? Mr McNair-Wilson: I do not restrict the availability of officers of either sex for particular classes of police work. It is true that the specialist units have been terminated. The advisory committee on the law of rape, under Mrs Justice Heilbrunn, considered that sympathy and tact were more important than their sex.

He added that it might be desirable for a woman officer to be present during an interview if the complainant wished it.

Dr Shirley Summerskill, the Opposition (Hull, Lab): The most important quality for interviewing the victim of alleged rape are special training, tact, sympathy and understanding, which are found equally among men and women police officers.

All police officers, men and women, must be given equal access to every type of work experience and to training and promotion prospects. Mr McNair-Wilson: The Sex Discrimination Act. Mr McNair-Wilson: The Sex Discrimination Act. Mr McNair-Wilson: The Sex Discrimination Act.

Entry refused to only a few visitors

Genuine visitors to Britain were being turned away almost every day of the week, Mr Ray Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said. Since the Immigration Act 1971, Indian families, this was a gross form of discrimination. Mr Hattersley: The Immigration Act 1971. Mr Hattersley: The Immigration Act 1971. Mr Hattersley: The Immigration Act 1971.

Mr Hattersley (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab): Every MP with ethnic minority constituents has good examples of genuine visitors who wish to come here and bring their families, but are prevented from doing so with little evidence to justify it.

Mr Hattersley: The average number of visitors refused entry is only 0.25 per cent. These cases are looked at with the greatest care with an appeal system, and ministerial attention given.

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Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Debate on the arts. Tuesday: Canada Bill, Committee. Wednesday: Travellers' Concessions (London) Bill, second reading. Thursday: Debate on Welsh Affairs. Friday: Private Members' Bills: Rating System (Abolition) Bill and Succession to the Crown Bill, second readings.

The House will be in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Legal Aid Bill and Marriage (Step-parents and Step-children) Bill, second readings. Tuesday: Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, first stage. Wednesday: Debates on rural housing, Scottish Highlands, and A220 Airbus.

Thursday: Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, report stage, second day.

Canada Bill

The Canada Bill was read a second time last night by the House of Commons, by a Government majority, 250.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet, East, C) said that as someone whose father, grandfather and great-grandfather were Canadians, he rejoiced that Canada was to get its constitution.

Mr Clinton Davis, an Opposition spokesman on Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, (Hackney, Central, Lab) said although the Opposition was recommending amendment of the Bill, it was not recommending the Bill with misgivings and qualifications.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said they must consider that the Federal Parliament passed this resolution by a majority in the House of Commons - 246 to 24. The vast majority of the Quebec MPs in the Federal Parliament, 72 out of 75, supported that resolution which was passed through the House of Commons.

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Leasehold Reform Bill rejected

HOUSE OF LORDS

Greet the Pope with open hearts, Runcie tells synod

By Clifford Longley Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday called upon the Church of England to welcome the Pope to Britain in May, to be optimistic about the prospects for unity with the Roman Catholic Church, and not to give way to prejudice and insularity.

The archbishop's presidential address to the General Synod set out to answer some of the fears and criticisms aroused by the prospect of the papal visit. He described the Pope's acceptance of his invitation to take part in a service in Canterbury Cathedral as "unprecedented in the history of the church in the West".

He also offered his support for the recent establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Holy See as a symbolic gesture of reconciliation helping to "heal the wounds opened up in the sixteenth century".

Dr Runcie dealt with a series of questions, some of which reflected the anxieties to which he referred.

In addition to the predictable howls of "No Popery", he said, he had met many fair-minded people with reasonable qualms about the visit. In particular, he noticed some anxiety which has been generated by the recent change in the level of diplomatic relations between this country and the Holy See.

The Foreign Office had kept him informed of the progress of that matter, but had not been obliged to seek his agreement for the change, so there was no possibility of the General Synod discussing it in advance.

The anxieties on the matter were an expression of deeper suspicions, that the real differences between the two churches were being "fudged". He added: "But I am convinced that we must not allow ourselves to be

come imprisoned in antique feuds. It is not the Christian way to be frivolous about questions of truth, but it is certainly not the Christian way to greet a great Christian leader with a mind full of suspicious negativity and hostility." The Pope should be welcomed on a human level.

Dr Runcie said that when he had met the Pope in Africa he had been astonished by the depth and spiritual quality of his listening.

"We all know him to be a person of quick sympathy and deep affection. These qualities are part of his equipment as a very powerful world Christian evangelist. We welcome a great teacher of the Christian faith and life, and a global focus for loyalty, who is potentially a focus of unity."

Anglicans must learn to think of themselves as world citizens, members of a world community which had to cope with its problems together, he said.

The accent during the Pope's visit would be on the "faith that unites us", and he included in that the Free Churches. The General Synod would be invited to Canterbury Cathedral for the service as would all members of the Free Church Federal Council, which numbers more than 100. Free church leaders would have a prominent part to play in the service, and would also take part in a serious and well-prepared discussion with the Pope, followed by an informal lunch. The Pope would be present from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

Dr Runcie insisted that the Anglican Communion should be consistent with the principles of its foundation, in particular that it should check that it was proceeding in reliance upon Scripture.

Tomark that, the visit was also an international occasion and Anglican primates from overseas would be at Canterbury to greet the Pope.

In the course of the Canterbury service, the Pope would lead a representative group to pray at the Cathedral's Chapel of the Twentieth Century Martyrs commemorating such figures as Martin Luther King, Archbishop Romero of Salvador, and Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish martyr of Auschwitz. That would symbolize the power of the Christian faith to evoke the deepest personal sacrifice.

Dr Runcie stated that the last report of the international theological commission of the two churches would be published next month. "A report on such a contentious area could not fail to be controversial" but it is understood to deal with papal infallibility and papal jurisdiction — "but I believe the commission has made real progress in clarifying and reconciling the two traditions," he said.

A successor commission would have to examine the status of Anglican holy orders in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church, but he did not indicate that he expected that matter to be advanced during the Pope's visit.

"I believe, however, that it is more realistic to expect that the Pope's visit will deepen the atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. It would be premature to expect final resolution of the differences between us, but it would be disastrous at this stage to suggest that the pace and urgency of the desire to find solutions were flagging."

The Pope's willingness to attend the service at Canterbury "has already made a contribution to the seriousness and urgency of our search for unity".



The Archbishop of Canterbury, watched by Mr Derek Pattinson, secretary-general of the General Synod, voicing optimism on unity prospects in his address yesterday.

Benefit appeal disparity

By Frances Gibb

An disparity between the length of time Social Security Commissioners take to handle appeals from claimants and appeals from benefit officers is shown in a survey published by the Child Poverty Action Group today.

The group calls on the Lord Chancellor to investigate why the applications for leave to appeal on points of law take months to be dealt with if they are from claimants, yet weeks if from benefit officers.

The findings of a survey the group has conducted on supplementary benefit cases it has advised on since November, 1980 "give rise to serious concern at the long delays experienced by claimants and their represen-

tatives in obtaining a hearing before the commissioners".

Of the 31 cases dealt with since November 1980, 27 were appeals by claimants, of which only three have so far been heard by the commissioner, it says. The remainder are still awaiting leave to appeal. The other four, which were benefit officer appeals, have all been heard.

The average waiting time for leave to appeal in 15 cases taken up by the group up to September 1981 was six months.

Six-and-a-half months, it says. Eleven of those 15 are still awaiting leave to appeal. But in the cases taken by the benefit officer, leave to appeal was granted in three cases in two-and-a-half weeks.

Rape complaints not believed, group says

From Our Correspondent Manchester

Almost half the women who complain of being raped in Greater Manchester are initially disbelieved by the police, Manchester Rape Crisis Line claims in a report issued yesterday.

Many of the women were called liars, the charity said and some had been insulted and abused and called "slags" or promiscuous. Young women had a particularly difficult time. If accompanied by their parents they were sometimes told that their parents did not believe them, or the parents were told that the girl had admitted to lying.

"Women were sometimes questioned for up to 10 hours," the report said "in several cases they were so upset by the lengthy, harsh questioning and disbelief that they gave up and withdrew their complaint".

The charity which was set up in March, 1980, complains that treatment varied between police stations and with individual officers. Although some women said they had been treated reasonably, the organization is concerned that police officers are often insufficiently informed and ill prepared to deal with women who have been raped.

The charity does not take up individual complaints about police behaviour because it wishes to preserve the anonymity of the women who telephone for help. In 95 cases investigated 12 found that only 47 had complained to the police. Of those, almost half the cases were not taken to court. More than a quarter were not investigated by the police or the women were pressed to drop charges, it claims.

The charity wants every woman who has been raped to be examined by a woman doctor. Mr James Anderton, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, told the county police committee this month that women doctors were available but admitted that the choice may not normally be given to raped women.

Mr Anderton said in a

statement yesterday there has been no record of any complaint on behalf of a raped woman or girl from the Manchester Rape Crisis Line, neither had a victim who may have consulted the crisis line objected to the manner in which police had handled their problems.

The Manchester Rape Crisis Centre have never notified me of any dissatisfaction or misgivings over police action, or procedures for investigating allegations of rape," he said.

"Perhaps they will now be good enough to provide me with more details so that further police inquiries can be made." A copy of the report is being sent to him.

The charity said the police attitude "often leaves much to be desired". It wants better training for police officers. "A lot of training done in police stations and traditional attitudes are passed on by long serving officers," said a spokeswoman.

"One of the main myths is that harsh questioning is necessary because there are a lot of false rape allegations. There is no evidence for that belief."

The charity is also unhappy about the legal definition of rape and added: "We also feel that to exclude rape within marriage is quite unjustified."

The statistics in the crisis line's first 18 months showed that only 28 per cent of rapists were strangers to their victims. Almost half were in acquaintance and 10 per cent were husbands or lovers.

□ A prisoner serving a life sentence for rape attacked a young woman after being allowed out for the day on a pre-release scheme (our Maidstone Correspondent writes). He dragged her into bushes at Mote Park, Maidstone, but she fought him off and escaped. At Maidstone Crown Court yesterday Ivor Jones, aged 31, admitted attempting to strangle the woman with intent to rape.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Man died while up a tree

A man who went woodcutting to provide fuel for his sister and her children found dead in a tree.

Graham Griggs, aged 24, of Leewood Place, Swanley, was found on a branch eight ft from the ground in Bourne woods, Brook Road, Swanley, police constable Bill Riley, the coroner's officer, said at an inquest in Croydon yesterday. It had been Mr Griggs's third trip to the woods that day.

The wall separating his two heart chambers had ruptured causing instant death, a pathologist, Dr Nigel Harcourt-Webster said. Mr Griggs had 270m of alcohol in every 100m of blood. A verdict of death by natural causes was given.

Dog owner on death charge

Mrs Olive Brown, aged 53, of Larnar Road, Erith, Kent, was remanded on bail by Bexley magistrates yesterday accused of the manslaughter of a woman aged 72, who died from a heart attack after being bitten by two Doberman Pinschers. She was remanded until May 18.

The charge alleges that last February Mrs Brown "knowing she was in control of two vicious dogs allowed them to attack the victim, Mrs Dorothy Gladys Dow, who died in hospital two days later."

£10,000 robbery

Five masked men who made a daylight raid on a sub-post office in Bedford Road, Boodle, yesterday, escaped with £10,000 in cash.

Murder charge

Howard Chamberlain, aged 33, was remanded in custody for a week by magistrates in Nottingham yesterday accused of murdering his wife, Susan, aged 34.

Move to end sharp, shock regime fails

By Amanda Haigh Parliamentary Staff

About 7 per cent of young offenders sentenced to the Government's "short, sharp shock" pilot scheme had to be transferred to other detention centres because they were found to be mentally or physically unfit to undergo the regime, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, announced yesterday during the committee stage of the Criminal Justice Bill.

He refused to accept an Opposition amendment to the Bill, which sought to abolish borstal training and provide for custodial sentences of between three weeks and four months in detention centres for male offenders aged between 14 and 21. The amendment would have required courts to obtain and consider reports on the physical and mental condition of the youths before sentencing them to the detention centres.

The amendment was rejected by 12 votes to 6, the Social Democratic Party voting with the Opposition.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Ormskirk, who had moved the amendment, said that in the two years since the short, sharp shock regime had been on operation, 81 of the boys at New Hall, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and 107 at Sead, Surrey, had been found by the medical officer at those detention centres to have been sentenced inappropriately to the courts.

Mr Mayhew told him that was not a high proportion of cases. About 7 per cent of boys at the four such centres in operation had had to be transferred.

Dr Shirley Summerskill, for the Opposition, said that the conditions and regime in detention centres were such that they could be detrimental to some boys and were a possible threat to the mental and physical well-being of an offender.

The Opposition was against detention centres for any age and for either sex. They were no more suitable and appropriate for boys than they were unsuitable and inappropriate for girls.

Mr Mayhew said that the rate of reoffending from detention centres after two years was depressingly high.

Officers' lives 'in danger'

□ A warning on the dangers to life and limb of officers and prisoners at Strangeways jail, Manchester, was issued yesterday by Mrs Edna Redfern, chairman of the board of visitors (John Charters writes from Manchester).

Mrs Redfern said that the board, looking back on 1981, could only view with alarm and despondency the falling standards in the prison service.

Her statement drew attention to the overcrowded conditions at Strangeways, a typical Victorian jail designed for about 1,000 prisoners and now housing more than 1,600.

That meant that the men were locked up for 23 hours a day and young people were being reclassified so that they could be put in the main prison.

College cooperative

A Renaissance dream in the East End

By Caroline Moorehead

Late on Wednesday night, after several weeks of hard campaigning, Mr Michael Murray, silversmith and a moving force in the small business crafts world, finally won his battle to convince the council in Hackney, east London, to let him build a disused hospital into craft workshops. The Metropolitan Hospital in the Enfield Road, empty for more than four years, is to become a college of 250 craftsmen, a Renaissance guild of the 1980's.

The idea of setting up a place where craftsmen live and work is one that has been simmering in Mr Murray's mind since he formed



Michael Murray: Tough campaigning

This week, final details of the lease, a commercial 25 year lease from the council, are being settled.

The financing of the Metropolitan College of Craftsmen will essentially be that of his past cooperatives. Only the scale is different. The Department of Industry looks likely to act as guarantor for a loan of £70,000 raised from Lloyds Bank; the Greater London Council will probably put up a grant to pay the interest.

By the end of this year two floors should be in operation, the £70,000 having gone towards rewiring, installing a new heating system, and carrying out basic repairs.

A quarter of the 250 workshops have been taken, a performing arts cooperative, which is to take a section for rehearsal rooms, has been formed, and furriers, leather workers, fashion designers, joiners and photographers are expressing interest. (The Turkish Islamic Trust is considering taking the old mortuary.)

20 NATIONS IN TALL SHIP RACE

By Ronald Faux

Tall ships of the world will unite this year in Southampton, the finishing line for the latest in the biennial races between these elegant vessels. The port will be host between August 18 and 25 to more than 80 square rigged, schooners, and lesser vessels from 20 nations.

Announcing details of the event, the organizers said that more than 2,000 trainees would take part in the crews of the various ships.

The tall ships will set out from Falmouth on July 25 on the first race of the series to Lisbon. In Portugal the fleet will meet the transatlantic tall ships that will have raced across from Newport. The combined fleet will then sail for Southampton.

Among the larger vessels expected to take part in the races, sponsored by Cutty Sark, is the 3,000-ton Russian Fisheries Board barque Krusenstern that has competed in the race since 1974. It is a Polish navy's recently launched square rigger, Dar Miliwiez, will take part in her first world event.

Other square riggers expected to take part are the German Fock, and the Portuguese barque, Sagres.

These aristocrats of the sea will be supported by many schooners, including the Sail Training Association's Sir Winston Churchill, crewed by boys, and the Malcolm Miller, crewed by girls.

'HIGH LIFE' QUESTIONS FOR STERN

William Stern, the former property tycoon who went bankrupt in 1978 with debts of £118m, is to be questioned by creditors about his lifestyle.

Mr Stern's application to be discharged from bankruptcy after offering to pay his creditors £55,000 over three years was described in the Court of Appeal yesterday as "impressive". The court ruled that the application should be continued before a High Court Judge for Mr Stern to be cross-examined by creditors.

Lord Justice Templeman said: "The amassing of these colossal debts calls for some less specious explanation than that so far provided." It was unjust that the creditors should not have been allowed to put to the bankrupt allegations of "rash and hazardous speculation".

The court allowed an appeal against the refusal of the London Bankruptcy Court to allow cross-examination.

Mr Stern, aged 48, now a property consultant, had lived "a Rolls-Royce existence". In 1980, he earned £22,000 and received a gift of £12,000 from a family trust. His £5,000 mortgage payments on his home in Golders Green, North-west London, said to be worth £1m, were also paid by the trust.

Mr Stern was ordered to pay the costs of both the Court of Appeal and Bankruptcy Court hearings. Leave of appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Have you recently found yourself becoming an involuntary non-profit organization?

The earnings reports of many companies are experiencing a widespread outbreak of parentheses. (We mean those depressing bow-legged punctuations that signify operating losses in balance sheets.)

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COMPUTERS

Crisis in Zimbabwe

Mugabe youths demand 'Shoot Nkomo'

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 18

Police and army units maintained tight security control over Zimbabwe's main cities today but there was no immediate sign of a backlash against the dismissal of Mr Joshua Nkomo from the Government.

Up to 5,000 demonstrators jogged through the streets of Salisbury this morning chanting and carrying placards calling for Mr Nkomo's imprisonment.

Roadblocks monitored traffic around the capital and Mr Nkomo's political stronghold, Bulawayo, which was reported by sources in the city to be peaceful and subdued.

The Zimbabwe Information Service — an arm of the Ministry of Information — put out a report that in Marandellas, a town east of here, a full-size black coffin had been paraded by demonstrators "to signify the death of Mr Nkomo". The report also said a youth wing of the ruling Zanu (PF) party had called for the execution of Mr Nkomo.

Investigations are meanwhile continuing into the possibility of charging Mr Nkomo and other senior members of his party with possessing weapons of war, after the discovery of big arms caches on Patriotic Front farms. Mr Mugabe said yesterday that the dismissals were only police action and that criminal proceedings might be brought against those responsible for the caches.

The dismissals effectively scrapped the coalition between the forces of Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, forged at independence in April 1980. It also raised the prospect of disaffection among Mr Nkomo's Ndebele supporters who are about 18 per cent of the population, and even of further faction fighting

which has claimed more than 400 lives since independence. Four leading members of the Government — two ministers and two deputy ministers — survived the purge of those alleged by Mr Mugabe to have been involved in a conspiracy.

Mr Cephas Maseko, the Deputy Minister of Manpower, made it known today that he would be staying in the Government. The other three have not revealed their intentions but at least one minister is thought likely to heed Mr Nkomo's call to quit the Cabinet.

The statements and the street demonstrations appeared to be part of a continuing campaign against Mr Nkomo. The *Herald* newspaper in Salisbury gave no coverage today to Mr Nkomo's expressed hope for continued peace. Nor did it publish his rejection of Mr Mugabe's allegation that he had sought South African assistance for a coup at independence. Mr Nkomo dismissed this allegation as "lies".

The newspaper did, however, carry a statement by Mr Dumiso Dabengwa, the former supreme commander of Mr Nkomo's Zupri force, which said that the weapons had been concealed, not to launch a coup, but "by Zupri cadres for their own protection".

He said that the trust between the Nkomo and Mugabe forces, built up at Lancaster House, had broken down soon afterwards. The statement said the Cabinet meeting for the first time without him. Callers at his Highfields home were told he was "away at present".

News analysis

Deep-rooted conflict split two leaders

From Our Correspondent, Salisbury, Feb 18

The dismissal of Mr Joshua Nkomo from Zimbabwe's coalition Government marks a watershed in the country's short history and the end of a long-uneasy alliance between two ill-suited political partners.

Mr Nkomo, the burly father figure of the nationalist movement in Zimbabwe, always looked incongruous alongside Mr Robert Mugabe, the ascetic Marxist who was catapulted to international prominence and unquestioned leadership of the country by the independence elections.

Mr Nkomo was the old-style union official who made it to the top of the political pile through magnetism and muscle. Mr Mugabe was the intellectual who emerged at the end of a power struggle, which was crippling his party, and imposed a sense of resolution and discipline which enabled it to win the 1980 election by a landslide.

If the time has come to write Mr Nkomo's political epitaph, it may be that of the three black leaders who emerged from the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and who were the only ones to lead his country. President Kaunda of Zambia and President Banda of Malawi were his contemporaries and comrades.

The arms finds which led to his ignominious dismissal this week were clearly an incendiary issue in a country so recently at war but the falling out with Mr Mugabe goes deeper.

The two men have been on opposite political sides for most of their lives. In addition to basic personality differences, the relationship was marked by the nature of their political support — Mr Mugabe drawing allegiance from the Shona-speaking tribes of the east and Mr Nkomo getting his support from their arch-rivals, the Ndebele of the west.

Although both Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe had joined forces under the Patriotic Front umbrella long before the Lancaster House talks, it was evident during the negotiations that Mr Nkomo was much more willing to compromise than Mr Mugabe. Whenever the 101 days of talks looked as though they were about to collapse, it was invariably because Mr Mugabe was digging in his heels.

At the time it was generally assumed that Mr Nkomo and his supporters would win the elections which finally paved the way to independence and majority rule. In the event it came as a deep shock to a man who regarded himself as one of the founding fathers of the nationalist movement in Africa to be trounced at the polls.

In the light of the traditional suspicion between the groups — and in spite of the clear mandate of the elections — Mr Mugabe's subsequent actions were both magnanimous and politically astute. Mr Nkomo and the Patriotic Front were offered a place in a government of national unity at the same time as Mr Mugabe was extending the hand of reconciliation and friendship to his erstwhile enemies, the whites.

It was amid these events that Zimbabwe was born in an atmosphere of heady optimism which, while never obscuring the underlying enmities, made real for the first time the possibility of a peaceful transfer of power.

That short-lived era of national unity appears to be over.

The alliance could not conceal what were essentially tribal and regional tensions. In the months after independence, Patriotic Front supporters came to believe that Mr Nkomo was being denied his share of the limelight.



News in Pictures: Manuel Barriopedro won first prize in the 1982 World Press Photo Contest with this photograph of Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero on the podium of the Spanish Parliament during his abortive coup attempt last February.

13 crew missing in Cape collision

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Feb 18

Thirteen of the 190 crew members of the President Kruger, a 2,250-ton South African naval frigate which sank after a pre-dawn collision today, 80 nautical miles south of Cape Point, were still missing tonight after an all-day air and sea rescue operation.

Vice-Admiral Ronald Edwards, the Chief of the Navy, described the accident, which occurred in heavy seas and high winds, as "very very sad". He said: "We will continue to search for the missing people until there is no further object in looking for them".

Of the 177 crew who had been rescued, two were reported to have been flown to hospital by helicopter. One had swallowed large amounts of sea water and diesel oil, and the other was suffering from lacerations, exhaustion and shock.

The doomed frigate collided at 4.22am with a fleet replenishment tanker, the 19,000-ton Tafelberg, and sank just over an hour later. Both ships had been taking part in night manoeuvres. The Tafelberg was able to limp home.

The ship was built in the Yarrow yard on the Clyde and launched in 1960. Originally intended for the Royal Navy, it was later sold to the South Africans to help protect the Cape sea route against submarine attack.

With the ending of the Simonstown agreement, however, and the imposition of an embargo on sales of arms to South Africa, the role of the Navy has been largely reduced to inshore patrolling and harbour protection. The Navy has fewer than 5,000 men and only a score or so of vessels.

Describing the accident, Vice-Admiral Edwards said the commander of the frigate realised about 15 minutes after the collision that the hull of his ship was so severely damaged that it could no longer stay afloat and he then gave the order to abandon ship.

The court martial could start a constitutionalist tradition for Spain's armed forces, as they prepare for Nato. Or it could be a justification for that intervention in politics summed up by the Spanish word *golpismo* ("coupism") by putting democracy itself on trial.

Older generations of Spaniards who lived under Franco tend to accept the pretensions of the military. The trial, especially after sentencing, will test the courage of the younger, more democratic generation in standing up for the constitution, through the force of public opinion.

Franco modelled his Army on the victorious side in the civil war which had overthrown the Republic, making

The coup that failed

Spanish Army in the dock

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 18

Spain's armed forces have no tradition of obedience to the Government. If the court martial beginning tomorrow in Madrid of three Army generals and 29 other officers, all charged with conspiracy to overthrow the Government, is any indication, the armed forces have accepted the principle of the coup.

Until the coup attempt, the armed forces had accepted the principle of the coup. The coup was a transition to a parliamentary democracy.

The Government of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, voted into office in the turmoil of the coup aftermath, decided that the bulk of the Army, which had stayed loyal to King Juan Carlos, their Commander-in-Chief, during the night of February 23, should try the *golpistas*. Only if the sentences involve more than three years' imprisonment will disobedience to the civilian government come before Spain's civilian Supreme Court on appeal.

The military prosecutor has demanded 30 years each, the maximum for the coup, for the generals and for Colonel Tejero.

There was much debate inside the army in the months leading up to the trial. A minority of hardcore right-wingers has been noisily hailing as martyrs figures like General Milans, the Captain-General of Valencia who declared martial law on February 23, and put his tanks on the streets. Similarly Colonel Tejero has been turned into a cult figure by extremist circles.

A majority of the officer corps, described by a leading pro-Government general as "the silent majority, unwilling to be manipulated", remains uneasy about democracy and the break-up of traditional social values, but believes in unity, discipline and obedience to the service hierarchy. On the night of the coup, three generals and a colonel declared swiftly for

the King, expressing the commanders' anguished desire for unity — or, more bluntly, to be once again on the winning side.

Brother officers from all the military regions will be present as observers at the trial, and the conduct of General Milans, a skilled and admired commander from a well-connected family, could be decisive. If found guilty, he risks dismissal from the Army, and could become a dangerous rallying point.

More explosive, however, will be the expected attempt by the defence to invoke the King as a supposed ally of the conspirators. In his New Year address to the armed forces, King Juan Carlos, whose conduct on the night of the coup was decisive, described as "calumnious" extreme right-wing campaigns to involve him in a coup against democracy. He expressed his confidence that the trial would reveal the truth.

Unfortunately, the king lacks in critical times the aristocracy's clear support. Señor Alberto Oliart, the Defence Minister, has sent 75,000 copies of the address to unit commanders, urging them to abide by the trial verdict.

Worries about the Government's failure to bring to trial more than one civilian, Señor Juan García, a former Franco trade union boss is well-known but hardly an important figure — have been confirmed by the prosecutor's final charges, handed to the defence last week. This failure helps the extreme right to contend that "the Army is on trial".

Constitutionalist officers have legitimately complained that some influential civilians have been permitted to remain in the shadows of the trial.

Leading article, page 11

Forces cut proposal by Russia

By David Cross

The Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies yesterday submitted what they said was "a new, important initiative" at the long-running and stalled East-West talks to reduce armed forces in central Europe.

The initiative, tabled in Vienna where the so-called Mutual Balanced Forces Reductions talks have been in progress since 1973, was described as a "comprehensive document containing all necessary components of an accord which makes it possible to start practical reduction of the level of military confrontation in the centre of the European continent".

The Soviet News agency Tass also claimed that the draft agreement balanced carefully the security interests of all the states taking part in the Vienna talks: "socialist and capitalist, big and small, direct participants and countries having a special status at the talks".

The document for initial cuts in Soviet and American troops stationed in Europe by 20,000 and 13,000 men respectively. This first step would eventually lead to a reduced total of 900,000 men on each side of the East-West border.

Doubts on Soviet Ship cargo

From John Best

Mystery today surrounded the sinking of a Soviet cargo ship in a North Atlantic storm on Tuesday with the loss of all but five of its 38 crew.

Mr Joe Clark, the Conservative Opposition leader, told reporters yesterday that the strange behaviour of the crew of the 4,200-tonne *Mekhanik Tarasov* "raises questions" about its cargo.

The crew, led by the captain, waved away a Danish trawler which was in the vicinity about 250 miles east of Newfoundland and which could have made a rescue attempt. Instead they desperately clung to the doomed ship, awaiting a Soviet fish-factory ship which arrived today.

Earlier, Mr John Roberts, told the Commons that 12 containers of uranium hexafluoride which were to have been shipped to Russia from Canada on board the *Mekhanik Tarasov* had been sent on board another Soviet vessel.

When it went down, the *Mekhanik Tarasov* was about 75 miles east of where the *Mobil Canada* oil rig, *Ocean Ranger* sank early on Monday with the loss of all 84 men on board.

The Defence Department's rescue coordination centre in Halifax today denied a report that the *Mekhanik Tarasov* was on its way to help the crew of the *Ocean Ranger*. It was in fact sailing in the opposite direction.

Cautious optimism in Rome

Italian terrorist strikes are falling off

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Feb 18

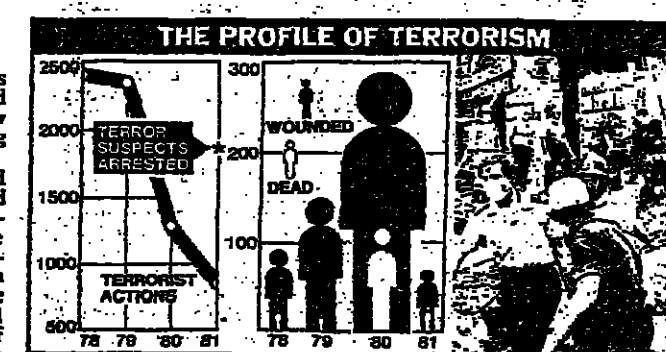
The number of terrorists and suspected terrorists held in Italian prisons is now 1,869. Another 310 are being hunted.

239 were arrested between December 17 and February 15 when 51 terrorists based throughout the country were discovered including the Padua flat in which the Red Brigades were holding Brigadier-General James Dozier, Deputy Chief of Staff at the Verona Nato base. He was the first non-Italian victim of the terrorists.

This extraordinary success at the turn of the year helped to concentrate attention on the real prospects of reducing terrorism which the Government still approaches with caution despite the statistics giving some grounds for optimism.

Figures compiled by the Ministry of the Interior show that the number of terrorist actions each year has been falling since 1979. In that year there were 2,366 incidents compared to 2,395 in the preceding year. In 1980 the drop was sharper, to 1,264. The 1981 total was 849.

The number of dead and wounded reflect a different picture: In 1978 there were 25 dead and 99 hurt. In 1979 the figures were 22 and 149 respectively but 1980 shows a huge increase — 120 dead and 288 injured most of



whom were victims of the bombing of Bologna railway station which killed 80 people. Last year's total was 26 dead and 70 injured.

The Bologna bombing is generally regarded as the classic case of terrorism committed by the extreme right which is seen to be indiscriminate in its terrorist activities, seeking simply to cause the deepest amount of shock with the greatest amount of death and destruction.

The far left is seen to be more likely to make its effect by destroying chosen targets. Of the terrorists and suspected terrorists held in prison at the turn of the year, 410 claimed to be from the extreme right as opposed to 1,220 from the extreme left.

The distinction is not always easy to make and is becoming less so. In some cases, the investigators can

only accept the prisoner's own description of his allegiance. Last year, 113 different terrorist organisations claimed responsibility for 229 of the 849 terrorist actions. Of the 113 groups some 91 were seen as belonging to the extreme left and most of the rest to the extreme right.

The Red Brigades were, however, well ahead of any other organisation with 61 actions including many of the most important ones, but their commanding position has been weakened by internal differences, less rough recruits and a growing readiness to give evidence instead of claiming simply to be prisoners of war.

The Red Brigades claim the largest share of kidnappings marked by political aims. They started the series in 1973 by seizing Signor Indro Montanelli, an executive of the Siemens company in

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Greeks call Kyprianou to Athens

Athens. — Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, asked President Kyprianou of Cyprus to come to Athens urgently (Mario Modiano writes). The reason was not disclosed. Mr Kyprianou said he would fly to Athens first thing this morning.

An official press release later disclosed that information about the Cyprus issue, had made necessary an urgent meeting of the two men. Their talks would continue until tomorrow.

What adds to the mystery is that President Kyprianou spent a week in Athens until January 28 after comprehensive talks here and Mr Papandreu himself is due to visit Cyprus at the end of this month. Originally, the Greek Prime Minister was supposed to visit Cyprus at the beginning of this month but his trip was put back, according to press speculation for fear of some Turkish-Cypriot reaction, such as a declaration of an independent state in northern Cyprus.

Australian doubt on carrier sale

Reports of a further delay over an Australian Government decision to buy the British aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible* have been greeted with scepticism in Whitehall (Henry Stanhope writes).

The fresh delay has been caused by scepticism among Australian backbenchers who are querying the need to buy *Invincible* — offered at what Britain considers a bargain £175m.

Stiff upper lip for Turks

Ankara. — The Turkish Government has ordered all male state employees to shave daily and not to grow beards or drooping moustaches, and it told women workers to keep their hair neatly combed and wear stockings, but never short or slinky skirts.

The regulations appeared to reflect the military regime's desire not only for discipline but to eradicate political or religious symbols associated with hairstyles or dress.

Soviet denial on germs

Moscow. — The Soviet Union in a note distributed at the European Security Review Conference, denied it ever used chemical weapons "anywhere under any circumstances or by any means" (Richard Wigg writes). American charges that it is using chemical and bacteriological weapons in central and South-east Asia were dismissed as "a monstrous accusation, false from beginning to end".

Oihmen kidnapped in Lebanon

Sidon. — Two oil company executives, one of them an American named as Thomas Anderson, deputy director of the petroleum distribution company Medco, were abducted by gunmen while on their way to an oil refinery near this south Lebanese port.

Kidnapped with him was Chahab Ali Ahmad. Company officials said the refinery was closed in protest and the workers sent home. The police had no idea who the kidnappers were.

Milan. There have been 23 political kidnappings and the Red Brigades organized 16 of them. Their activities have included the kidnapping of numerous victims from Signor Aldo Moro, the Christian Democratic former Prime Minister who was kidnapped in March 1978 and later murdered, to General Dozier who was seized in his Verona flat on December 17.

The latest victims in this series of kidnappings point to a paradox in Italian terrorism: the terrorists' sensitivity to public opinion in their choice of victim but an inability to transform this sensitivity into behaviour which would have a real effect on the thinking of the ordinary Italians.

They kidnapped Signor Ciriaco De Mita, a Christian Democratic politician from the Naples area, in April 1981, with the apparent aim of exploiting the widespread discontent with the way in which the Government handled aid after the great earthquake in the south. In May, 1981, they kidnapped and murdered Signor Giulio Andreotti, a Montedison executive, following up a month later with the kidnapping of Signor Renzo Sanguineti, an executive of the Siemens company in

Warsaw leaders caught on hop by swoop report

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 13

The Polish authorities were baffled today by the sharp Western response to a report of a routine police swoop that was originally intended to do little more than remind the population of the need for martial law and give the increasingly bored troops a renewed sense of purpose.

As news filtered through of the United States State Department's disapproval and the angry response of Western delegates at the Madrid conference on European security, Polish officials began to call in journalists (a rare occurrence) to find out what the fuss was about.

The problem is the result of a two-day operation at the end of last week code-named "tranquillity" which coincided with a general show of military and police force in the capital.

The immediate aim was to remind the people of the strength of the security units in case any protest was planned on February 13 to mark the two months of martial law.

According to a PAP news agency report, the checking of 51,000 shops, 60,000 vehicles and 3,500 "criminal haunts" (a somewhat vague category), demonstrated "that the observance of martial law regulations is not as good as it might be".

There were 145,000 infringements, 99,000 people had their identity checked and were "cautioned" while another 29,000 were "reminded of their duties". In the latter category was *The Times* correspondent who had forgotten one of the three documents that journalists are supposed to carry with them.

The real Western concern, one Polish official told me, having listened to Radio Free Europe the previous evening, was a figure of 3,500 "detentions" published by PAP.

In fact these people were held for a matter of hours, the majority of them for traffic offences. The International Television News correspondent, Mr John Underwood, for example, was taken to a militia station after driving the wrong way down a one-way street and freed soon afterwards.

Some 4,000 cases have been referred to minor offences courts (such as being insolent to a policeman or having faulty brakes), 614 of which involved a direct infringement of martial law. This figure, officials say, refers largely to curfew violations or the sale of alcohol. They concede, however, that another figure — 252 people suspected of committing crimes — might include some Solidarity activists.

What seems to have happened is that Poland has fallen victim to its own newly reinstated practice of exaggerating the statistics of success, whether it be in coal production or the achievements of security forces.

At the end of the operation, patrols had to submit numbers of people whom they had stopped and questioned and in many cases they rather overstated the figures, lest they be accused of poor vigilance.

The problem, one Western diplomat said here today, is that such statements confuse the theatre of martial law with its reality. The reality lies in the rarely trumpeted announcements of summary trials. Yesterday, another three mine workers were sentenced to three and a half years' jail each for trying to organize a work stoppage.

There is also an increasing concern, especially in the Baltic region, about the resurgence of organized opposition. According to unofficial sources, eight telegraph transmitters have been stolen from a marine enterprise near Gdansk, with the intention of establishing clandestine contacts with Warsaw.

Although Solidarity leaders still underground — above all Mr Zbigniew Bujak — have urged the opposition to operate in isolated cells, the opposition is evidently building itself a sophisticated infrastructure.

The suspended organizations have not withered away. Thus the suspended students' union, NZS, is understood to be organizing a demonstration in Warsaw.

□ The Polish Government has ordered price cuts for a number of dairy products including cheese and butter, the official PAP news agency reported.

It did not give the new prices for the commodities which were nearly quadrupled at the beginning of 1981, but said that reductions would mean higher government subsidies. The agency also reported a reduction in the prices of television sets giving as an example the colour set which had been reduced by about 26 per cent to £390.

□ Copenhagen: Denmark has refused to authorize the release of 10,000 balloons — carrying messages from the Paris offices of Solidarity — from a Danish ship in the Baltic Sea.

□ New York: American bankers, encouraged by interest payments made so far by Poland, may allow the Poles to re-schedule their 1981 commercial bank debt soon, banking sources said.

American social issues, 3

Congress challenge on black voting rights

This article on black voting rights by Peter David is the last of three by *Our Washington Staff* on social issues facing Congress. The first, on housing, appeared on February 5; the second, on abortion, appeared on February 9.

President Reagan's troubled relationship with black leaders will be subjected to new strains in the coming weeks when Congress begins debate on an issue most Americans believe was settled more than 100 years ago — the right of black people to vote.

A powerful group of conservative Republicans in the Senate has begun a campaign to stop Congress agreeing to renew and strengthen the 1965 Voting Rights Act, a landmark law which forced the reluctant Southern states to allow blacks to exercise their constitutional franchise.

Parts of the Act expire in August and the House of Representatives has already voted 389 to 24 in favour of a Bill renewing the Act and making it easier to prove violations of minority voting rights.

More than 60 senators have also promised to support the Bill but an influential minority, supported by the President, wants to modify it and relax some of the safeguards.

The Senate judiciary committee, which began hearings on the Bill this month, has already been the scene of sharp clashes between liberal senators and Administration officials. Senator Edward Kennedy, who wants the Senate to adopt the House Bill without modifications, accused the Administration of undermining civil rights and said the changes it sought would turn the Act into "an empty shell".

The differences between the two sides centre not on the principle of fair voting but on a technical debate about how the Act should work. The technicalities, however, reflect deep political differences between the Northern and Southern states and philosophical disagreements between liberals and conservatives about the definition of racial discrimination.

Blacks won the right to vote in 1870 under the

Fifteenth Amendment, but in the South many were prevented from doing so for nearly a century by intimidation, poll taxes and fraudulent literacy tests.

Goaded by violent civil rights protests, President Johnson introduced the Voting Rights Act in 1965. It abolished the literacy tests and other barriers to black voting. It also stripped six Southern states, where voting had been most restricted, of their authority to make even minor changes in election procedures without "pre-clearance" from the Federal Government.

The House Bill would continue this pre-clearance clause and has infuriated Southern Republicans. They say the Bill treats the South as if it were still a conquered territory, and they find it humiliating to have to ask Washington to approve such details as the position of polling booths in local elections.

Senator Strom Thurmond, the South Carolina Republican who chairs the judiciary committee, wants to enable states with clean voting records to free themselves from federal surveillance. Civil rights leaders vehemently oppose such a change. They fear that the Southern states, left to their own devices, would reorganize their voting districts to swamp the politically potent black vote in large white majorities.

The President and his Senate allies have another more fundamental objection to the House Bill. The new Bill defines voting discrimination as a practice that has the "effect of discriminating against minorities. President Reagan believes it should be necessary to prove that voting practices "intend" to discriminate.

Both sides concede the Voting Rights Act has been an outstanding success in encouraging blacks to vote. Promising to renew the Act last November, President Reagan said: "The right to vote is the crown jewel of American liberties and we will not see its lustre diminished."

But it is hard to see how Congress can agree on a Bill which could satisfy both civil rights groups and the conservative Republicans.

Hopes rise for UN's Afghan initiative

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York, Feb 18

The long belated United Nations initiative on Afghanistan may be heading for a breakthrough.

Intimations of willingness from all the parties involved to cast aside their uncompromising positions and begin serious negotiations have gone far enough to prompt the United Nations to draw up plans for the convening of so-called proximity talks with Pakistan and Iran, on the one hand, and the Soviet-backed Kabul Government on the other.

The timing of such talks is still unsettled but discussions about them are viewed with guarded optimism. Nevertheless, the new situation appears to have encouraged Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, to speak openly about real prospects for a meeting of minds.

In a recent interview he expressed confidence that immediately after a tour of the region by his special representative on Afghanistan, expected to be named on Friday, attention could be focused on the arrangements for the proximity talks.

Privately United Nations officials are saying that the immediate task of the special representative will be to work out an agenda which will deal with two issues critical for an overall settlement: complete withdrawal of Soviet occupying troops, and a guarantee of Afghanistan's sovereignty.



Papal embrace: A child greeting the Pope on his arrival in Malabo.

Pope thanks his persecuted faithful

From Godfrey Morrison, Libreville, Gabon, Feb 18

The Pope flew to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, today to thank the faithful in one of Africa's most Catholic countries for remaining steadfast in the face of horrific persecution and to offer the present Government his church's cooperation.

African papal sources said that the Pope's visit to Equatorial Guinea was regarded by him as one of his most important visits since the church there had suffered grievously during the 11 years rule of President Francisco Macias Nguema.

During the Macias presidency hundreds of people died and all Roman Catholic

missionaries were expelled. Thousands of people were sent into forced labour in the cocoa plantations and 50,000 foreigners, most of them Nigerians, were deported.

Macias Nguema was overthrown in 1979 by his nephew Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who now heads a military Government that is trying to rebuild the country's ravaged economy.

On his arrival in Malabo, the Pope told him: "I am sure that the moral reserves of the Guinean people will bring about a climate of mutual collaboration that will implant the conditions of a proper morality, both public

and private, and lead to a real spiritual and material progress."

A cheering crowd of 10,000 people greeted the Pope on his arrival in Equatorial Guinea, the last country of his four-nation African tour.

The Pope's words of encouragement will undoubtedly come as a great boost for the military Government whose efforts to reestablish normality in this small country of only about 350,000 people — 90 per cent of whom are Catholics — has not been helped by the world recession.

Only Idi Amin of Uganda rivalled Macias Nguema, who

was executed shortly after the coup which overthrew him, as an African tyrant.

The former President was certainly mentally unbalanced during the later stages of his rule, being widely credited with practising cannibalism. Among his many despotically acts were mass murders, the murder by defenestration of at least one of his ministers, and building a wall around Malabo Cathedral to prevent Catholics worshipping there.

The Pope made a particular point of expressing confidence in Bishop Rafael Marizane who was exiled by Macias Nguema in 1972.

Bacteria may help to shrink computers

From Christopher Thomas New York, Feb 18

The speed of technological advance in the United States is threatening to make the silicon chip start showing its age. Scientists are talking about growing computer components in a test tube.

Already a few laboratories are experimenting with the idea of combining electronics and genetic engineering to produce computer parts from bacteria.

The result would be a computer much smaller and much more powerful than anything in existence today. Researchers are predicting a device the size of a football with the capacity of a cray, the most powerful computer available — although the hypothesis is probably at least 20 years from reality.

The smallest dimension at present is about one micron, a millionth of a metre. Advocates of the chemical approach believe that molecular elements will form the breakthrough to smaller computers. Mr Forrest Carter, head of molecular electronics at the naval research laboratory in Washington, said that hundreds of molecular elements could fit a line one micron in length.

IBM's research centre has synthesised a molecule in which two protons and two electrons — components of an atom's nucleus — can shift position.

This is Thomas. One day, he might win the Nobel Prize. Or perhaps he'll even get a job. (Anything's possible, after all.)

But for two hours last Autumn, all his glorious futures hung in the balance.

He contracted an infection. His temperature soared and he fell into convulsions.

Before we got together with British Telecom, four hours might elapse between the development of serious symptoms and a patient's admission to hospital.

Now, thanks to the national radio paging system, a doctor can be alerted to an emergency by a 'bleep' carried about his person, enabling him to save vital minutes in the treatment of serious illness.

So it was with Thomas. His GP was at his side within an hour, and a potentially-fatal situation defused.

One day, he'll know enough words to thank his lucky stars.

Meanwhile, it's hard to resist raising

an eyebrow at those who depict the microchip as the harbinger of a new Dark Age, in which honest flesh and blood will be surplus to requirements.

For there's nothing inherently sinister about a silicon chip. It is, after all, merely a slave. It does what it's told.

We tell ours, among other things, to train pilots in our flight simulators; to entertain us through our television and recorded music systems; and to take the drudgery out of office work through our advanced, desktop Teleputer terminals.

In fact, Thomas will bump into us in all sorts of unexpected places as he grows up.

And we believe that, thanks to us, his world will be rather better than the one he almost left, last September.

REDIFFUSION

A MICROCHIP GAVE THIS MAN A FUTURE.



WITH A TURNOVER OF £250M, REDIFFUSION IS A LEADING NAME IN BRITISH ELECTRONICS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US WRITE FOR A BROCHURE TO: GROUP PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, REDIFFUSION LTD, CANTON WAY, LONDON W14 8LS.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Oil victims stage a sit-in

Madrid.—Forty people suffering from the effects of Spain's nine-month oil toxic cooking oil tragedy, or members of their families, began a sit-in in a church at Reinos, near Santander on the Cantabrian coast (Richard Wigg writes).

They are demanding swift payment of full assistance to the victims, including children under 16, as well as stricter application generally of food safety regulations. They described their sit-in as indefinite and in no way connected with a similar protest in Madrid churches last weekend.

In Parliament, the Socialist Party urged the Government to order the official clinical commission investigating the disaster to study the effectiveness of acupuncture and homeopathic treatment and to pass the results on to the victims.

Football star out of danger

Hanover — Uli Hoessgen, general manager of Bayern Munich, the West German football league champions, is in intensive care unit of a hospital here after an air crash in which three companions were killed. Staff said, however, that his life was no longer in danger. The twin-engine aircraft he was in crashed in fog 10 miles from Hanover airport after flying from Frankfurt.

Hoessgen, aged 30, a member of the national side which won the 1972 European championship and 1974 World Cup, was coming to watch last night's international game against Portugal.

Top table for England's team

All five English players look set to qualify for the final five in the West European zonal tournament in Marbella, Spain. In Group A Nigel Short confirmed his hold on the lead by beating McNab of Scotland in round nine on Wednesday (Harry Colombeck writes). He now has seven points and is followed by van der Wiel (Holland) 6, Ligterink (Holland) 6, and Nunn (England) 5.

Results in round nine: Short 1, McNab 0; Nunn 1, Ligterink 0; van der Wiel 1, Colombeck 0; Short 1, McNab 0; Nunn 1, Ligterink 0; van der Wiel 1, Colombeck 0.

Jonathan Mestel likewise retained his lead in Group B and after beating Klauner (Luxembourg) he has a fine score of seven points out of eight.

Clue in shoe to nine killings

Tegucigalpa. — A cigarette packet found on one of the nine bodies recently discovered in a common grave linked the killings with the Honduran secret police, Dr Luis Vidal Ramon, in charge of the post-mortem examinations, said.

The packet in a shoe had this message: "To Carmen from Marcus: I am being held in the DIN (secret police headquarters)." The parents of Marcos Rolando Navarro, arrested three months ago, claim this is their son.

Fire cripples atom plant

Stockholm.—A fire at a nuclear power station outside Oskarshamn was extinguished after 30 minutes but the reactor will be out of action for several weeks, an official said. There was no risk of any radioactive leakage. The loss of power will cost £110,000 a day.

The fire started in the turbine hall and, after personnel were evacuated, was put out with carbon dioxide from the sprinkler system.

Girl driver executed

Peking — A woman taxi driver, Yao Jinyun, aged 23, who killed five people and injured 19 others when she deliberately drove her vehicle into a crowd in Peking last month has been executed.

Damascus blast 'a riposte'

By Edward Mortimer

The explosion yesterday at Mr Ahmad Iskandar's Information Ministry in Damascus, has been described by the Muslim Brotherhood as a blistering riposte to the minister's claims that the Brotherhood had been suppressed.

A representative of the Brotherhood in London, who uses the name of Ziad Hashim, also said his leaders in Syria had telephoned him to complain about a gross article in *The Times* last Monday which said the declared aim of the Muslim Brotherhood was to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state.

He said the Brotherhood was fighting the regime of President Assad as part of a broad alliance, including Muslim, secular and Christian groups, with a view to reintroducing democracy in Syria.

Mr Hashim, said: "When

there was democracy we didn't fight even the communists. We never resorted to arms if we were defeated in elections."

The Brotherhood had as much right to a political role in Syria as the Christian Democrats in any European country. It was determined to remain democratic and avoid at all costs a repetition of events in Iran.

Mr Hashim is encouraged by the latest information from Syria. The town of Ariba, he says, where the road north from Hama crosses the east-west road from Aleppo to Latakia, is practically under Muslim Brotherhood control.

Mr Hashim is bitter about the lack of attention paid by the West to events in Syria compared to Poland.

"The people who are dying

doctors, teachers, engineers. We are not Shia like the Iranians: we have no love of martyrdom for its own sake. We want to enjoy life."

In Hama, he claims, the revolt was a deliberate reaction to ruthless search operations started by the Government last November. "They come with lists of wanted people, but only the family names, so that often they get the wrong person. And when his house is pointed out to them, they don't knock on the door. They throw a grenade into the house, attack it with machine guns and rockets, and then ask questions afterwards."

They killed about 100 people this way in December and January. We had started arming the people in Hama 18 months ago, but we told them not to move, even if they saw a Muslim Brother being killed, until the order was given."

Syria preparing to attack, Sharon claims

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Feb 18

A claim last night by Mr Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Defence Minister, that Syria is preparing to launch a war against Israel has increased apprehension among Western diplomats that the Israeli Army will soon stage a military operation in the north.

During a 35-minute interview on television, Mr Sharon combined his warning about Syria with a description of what he claimed was the growing military and political strength of the Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

He claimed the high state of Israeli military alert, in operation since December, was justified by the security situation with the Palestinians and the Syrians. He then added: "Syria itself is preparing for war, and I am not talking about rumours, I am talking about concrete facts."

Questioned by Israeli journalists about the possibility of a new war in Lebanon — a subject which receives daily coverage in the press here — Mr Sharon replied: "We will not initiate a war, this is a clear decision of the Government. But it could be that war will be forced upon us."

The Defence Minister is the Cabinet member named most frequently in press and political speculation as pressing hardest for an Israeli military thrust on a larger scale than the 1978 invasion of southern Lebanon. He has recently met leaders of the Lebanese Christians in Beirut to coordinate plans.

Mr Sharon spelt out Israel's position, disputed by American officials, that the July, 1981, ceasefire related six weeks after the Lebanese border, but to any other sort of Palestinian guerrilla operation directed against Israel from inside Lebanon.

He used the occasion to publicise government statistics of the numbers of Israelis and Jews in Europe

killed or wounded by Palestinians since the truce came into force. He said nine Jews had been murdered and 150 injured.

Many Western diplomats believe it is a question of when, rather than whether Israel will launch its military push to eliminate Palestinian firing positions in range of its northern settlements.

Senior diplomats in Tel Aviv have even organized a private sweepstakes to predict the date of the Israeli military operation, so convinced are they that it is imminent.

Intelligence analysts claim that no attack is likely before President Mitterrand's planned visit during the first week in March. There is also uncertainty about the exact type of Palestinian provocation which would prompt an Israeli retaliation.

The tension over Lebanon has overshadowed continuing attempts by the United States to inject momentum into the deadlocked talks on Palestinian autonomy. The latest initiative began today when America's new special autonomy negotiator, Mr Richard Fairbanks, began talks in Jerusalem.

Mr Fairbanks is adopting a deliberately low key approach, with no more hints of a possible breakthrough. He describes the purpose of his first Middle East visit in his new role as educational.

Anti-Israeli demonstrations and strikes in the occupied West Bank continued for the third consecutive day in protest against the decision to shut down Bir Zeit University for a further period of two months, only six weeks after it opened following a previous military closure.

The Israeli authorities, in an effort to defuse the widely coordinated protests against the closure, issued orders banning the carrying of large West Bank towns from leaving their municipal areas.

Palestinians divided

Israelis are spectators in Arab power struggle

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, Feb 18

An unprecedented wave of Islamic fervour among young Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is splitting local opposition to Israeli rule into two camps: one imposing the biggest threat to the dominance of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) since the Israeli occupation 15 years ago.

There have been a number of violent clashes over the past month between PLO supporters and the new breed of Muslim fundamentalists. These have resulted in the self-imposed closure for a month of the largest West Bank university at Nablus, the serious injury of a PLO lecturer forced to jump from a third-floor window after being branded an "enemy of God" and the burning of a library in Gaza closely identified with the PLO.

The Beirut-based Voice of Palestine radio station has already broadcast calls for unity among the 1,200,000 Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories and the Israeli commentators have expressed satisfaction that the new phenomenon is proving more divisive than the government-supported leagues of rural Palestinians.

The sudden upsurge of fundamentalism is something that is really dangerous for us," explained Mr Ibrahim Karzemi, director of the pro-PLO Palestine Press Service in east Jerusalem. Under the guise of religion a wedge is being driven between the Palestinians. The real aim of the revivalists is to challenge the leadership of the PLO.

The most telling evidence of the Islamic revival was to be found on the 2,000-strong campus of Bir Zeit, the oldest West Bank university which was closed by military order this week for two months after clashes between students and Israeli soldiers.

There was no Islamic student body before the

Iranian revolution, in 1978, but today the so-called Islamic bloc (dominated by the semi-clandestine Muslim Brotherhood) holds more than 40 per cent of votes on the student council.

The leader of the university's Muslim revival is Mr Samer Nimr, a bearded 21-year-old student of Middle East politics who lives in a squatted refugee camp near Nablus. He told me yesterday: "The reason why West Bankers are turning to Islam is the bankruptcy of all the other solutions to the Arab problem tried over the past 100 years. And the PLO is one of them."

Mr Nimr, whose fierce rhetoric and rigid views visibly frighten many members of the academic staff, is opposed to mixing male and female students in classes, and to the recent influx of such Western influences as alcohol. He remains firmly opposed to Israel, but he is striving for a wide Islamic state in the Middle East based on the Koran rather than the narrow, secular state of Palestine sought by supporters of the PLO.

The Islamic revival has had a marked effect on local Arab society. Many of the young men at Bir Zeit and other universities now wear beards while hundreds of women students have abandoned Western clothing to return to long dresses and the traditional headscarf.

An Arab woman science lecturer at Bir Zeit outlined some of the problems facing the university. "Already I have been told by some of my male pupils that they do not want to be taught by a woman any more. Attempts are being made to interfere with the curriculum. When I tried to teach Darwin's theory of evolution, I was stopped by the Islamic militants. I thought that they were going to kill me."



Deng returns to duty

Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping (right) was seen in public for the first time in more than five weeks when he met Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the deposed Cambodian leader, who presented him with the flowers. (David Bonavia writes from Peking)

Mr Deng said that he had been "resting and effectively quelling speculation that he had been removed from his positions in the Chinese leadership, though he is now officially described as working in the 'second rank'." The problems

he faces in his plan to prune the Government bureaucracy, and purge unsuitable party cadres, are thought to be still serious.

Peking television showed Mr Deng, evidently healthy but feeling his 77 years, greet Prince Sihanouk and tell him that the present situation in China was "one of unprecedented stability".

Because of this, Mr Deng added, and because of the "continuity of policies in recent years", China could come to grips with bureaucratic overlapping and over-staffing.

Observers believe the plan for heavy cuts in official jobs has aroused much alarm and resentment among the country's governing elite, who are worried about the loss of their privileges.

Mr Deng also said that the advanced age of many functionaries had become a pressing matter. "We are determined to take it as a revolution of course, this is a revolution in the administrative structure, not a revolution against anyone."

"It is going very smoothly. I think the job can be completed much earlier than expected". Plans are already in hand to merge a number of government departments and ministries, he said.

On Cambodia, Mr Deng said that he hoped the three main resistance movements — the Khmer Rouge, the anti-Communist forces led by Mr Son Sant and the much smaller forces loyal to Prince Sihanouk — would "persist in unity and achieve positive results" in the struggle against Vietnamese occupation.

Detainee held in mental ward

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Feb 18

A leading black trade unionist, Mr Thozamile Gqweta, has been admitted to the psychiatric ward of a Johannesburg hospital after being imprisoned and interrogated for more than two months by security police.

His condition has shocked relatives who have visited him.

At least four other people held without trial under South Africa's stringent security laws have been taken to hospital in recent weeks. One detainee, Dr Neil Aggett, a white trade union official, was found hanged in his cell on February 5. An inquest has been promised by the authorities.

Mr Gqweta is the president

of the East London-based South African Allied Workers' Union, one of the fastest growing of the new breed of independent black trade unions which have refused to accept government registration and insist on negotiating directly with the companies employing their members.

Arrested early in December, Mr Gqweta was soon transferred to security police headquarters at John Vorster Square in Johannesburg where he was held under the notorious Section Six of the Terrorism Act. This permits the police to hold people for interrogation indefinitely without having to justify it in court.

Mr Gqweta, who is 29, was

visited by his elder brother, Robert, yesterday. Robert said his brother was much thinner, complained of a severe headache, was deeply depressed, spoke with difficulty and easily lost the thread of conversation.

Mr Gqweta was visited by Robert again today, and by his four-year-old daughter, Amanda.

A spokesman for Mr Gqweta's lawyer, who is not allowed to visit him, told *The Times*: "He seems to be very depressed, and suffers from mania and insomnia. He also trembles quite a lot and wanders in his speech. There is no doubt that this is due to the conditions in which he is being held by the police."



Mixed welcome: Señor Francisco Fiallos Navarro, the Nicaraguan Ambassador in Washington, leaving the White House after presenting his credentials to President Reagan this week. The President told him firmly that Nicaragua was "inviting alien influences and philosophies into the hemisphere." The Ambassador replied that his country will go its own way and take help from its friends where it finds them.

Argentine protest at kidnap

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires, Feb 18

Political parties here last night called for a thorough investigation of the kidnapping and murder of a woman, and deplored police action which, they said, disrupted a meeting of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) that evening.

The woman, Señora Ana Maria Martinez, a member of the disbanded Socialist Workers' Party, was seized while out shopping on February 4, by a man and a woman in a Ford Falcon car. The Interior Ministry said last night that she had been found dead in the Tigre area of Buenos Aires on February 12. Señora Perette, the former Argentine Vice-President who is a radical leader, said that the multi-party meeting yesterday condemned the kidnapping and demanded the most thorough investigation of the affair.

Señor Perette said that the parties also condemned the surrounding by police of the CGT headquarters in Buenos Aires last night just before labour leaders were to hold a meeting. The CGT said that the disruption of the meeting showed the "true repressive face" of the Government.

The union leaders, who are working out a "mobilisation" plan to fight the Government's economic policies, said power and telephones went off at the CGT headquarters just before the meeting was due to start.

Raiders pull out of Thailand

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 18

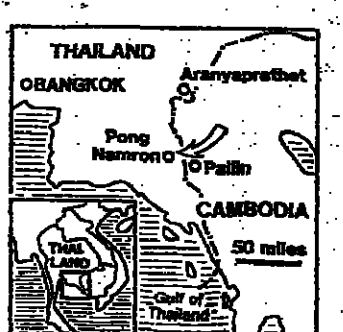
A strong force of Vietnamese and Heng Samrin troops withdrew from Thailand last night more than 24 hours after crossing the border from Cambodia in pursuit of the Khmer Rouge.

The force thrust more than half a mile into Thailand as far as Suptaree village in the Pong Nam Rong district of Chantaburi province. A force of Thai marines was dispatched from further south to relieve a 15-man patrol of the border police which had been surrounded. Five of the patrolmen are unaccounted for but there is no indication of Vietnamese casualties.

The Thais have been expecting further incursions by the Vietnamese and Heng Samrin troops in Cambodia as the Khmer Rouge fighting forces have been pushed back to the Thai border. Unusually large numbers of Khmer Rouge troops have been reported in sight of the Thai border by diplomats visiting the area over the past two days.

This latest incident comes against a background of fresh moves to break the impasse between the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Vietnam over the presence of Hanoi's troops in Cambodia.

The fifth meeting of the foreign ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia ended in Vietnam yesterday with the offer of a partial withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia should proposed talks with Thailand on the stabilisation of the Thai-Cambodian border prove fruitful.



The ministers assured Thailand that Vietnamese forces "in no way threaten Thailand's security," and said that they were ready to talk to Bangkok about all matters of common concern.

Stabilisation normally means to the Indo-Chinese countries the withdrawal of support for the Khmer Rouge. Support for the

Khmer Rouge is being debated in Thailand and the rest of ASEAN. As usual the ministers have acted with skillful timing.

The Thais have agreed to examine the latest proposal but say it appears to contain nothing new. Along with the rest of ASEAN, Thailand insists any withdrawal must be total and under the auspices of the United Nations.

Much the same proposal was put to Dr Arun Pong-pong, the Thai Deputy Foreign Minister, in talks in Rangoon last month when asked whether the partial withdrawal was a prelude to the removal of their troops from the Vietnamese did not respond.

Mr Rafieuddin Ahmed, a special envoy of the United Nations, is in Bangkok tomorrow at the start of a tour of Vietnam, Laos and the Asian nations. His visit to Thailand coincides with a visit by Mr Suphachai Dharmaratna, the Singapore Foreign Minister, making the latest of a series of bilateral contacts.

The Thais have meanwhile agreed to return the Vietnamese aircraft and crew which crash-landed last week. Thailand is now satisfied the aircraft strayed over the border by mistake.

El Salvador refugees

Children ailing in lice-infested camp

From Paul Eilman, Santa Tecla, El Salvador, Feb 18

"We were scared of the soldiers. We were scared of everything," explained Amelia, a 12-year-old orphan with bigger responsibilities than most adults could shoulder. "That's why we came here."

Amelia, her nine-year-old sister and her two brothers, aged four and seven, are among nearly 1,000 people who fled to the smoky, lice-infested camp on the edge of Santa Tecla after the war came to their village nine months ago.

She grows quizzically when asked who looks after the family, who does the cooking and washing. "I do, of course." The children lost both their parents a year ago and were living alone when the war uprooted them from their homes.

Not all of El Salvador's refugees have fled from government forces. Many are bitterly opposed to the guerrillas, especially if they have relatives serving in the security forces.

Most of the inhabitants of the camp at Santa Tecla, 10 miles south-east of San Salvador, originally came from the area round Suchitoto, a town 20 miles to the north which has been one of the bitterest fighting areas.

As the war intensifies and spreads, the refugee problem is threatening to overwhelm the agencies trying to cope with it.

Estimates of the number of refugees among El Salvador's population of 4.5 million vary. The United States Embassy puts the total at about 200,000, but relief agencies put it at some 500,000. This includes peasants who have fled into Honduras.

It is often only the lucky ones who find refuge in organised camps. Relief workers estimate that about 72,000 people have come into the Santa Tecla area, most of them to live as squatters in shacks on the fringe of the town.

Those for whom space has been found in the camp lead a miserable life, centred mostly on its sole source of water, a pipe which the municipality turns on for one hour a day.

Otherwise, they sit at the entrances to the 12ft square rooms and make the make-shift beds divide.

The camp is run by the Salvadorean Green Cross founded by young idealists who felt that the Red Cross was reluctant to risk the anger of the authorities.

The Green Cross admits that it treats wounded guerrillas and that it provides relief for refugees in areas controlled by the Government's opponents, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Movement.

As a consequence, the Green Cross has had ambulances and medicines donated from abroad impounded by customs for non-payment of duties.

Harassment of this kind is a feature of life for the refugees at Santa Tecla who are periodically raided by troops from the local garrison but are otherwise virtually neglected by government officials.



Señor José Luis Escobar, a former field worker who fled with his remaining ten children from Suchitoto and has been jobless ever since, said of the government forces: "They were killing our neighbours. Then they killed my eldest daughter."

Señor Rafael Vega Salazar, the Green Cross director for Santa Tecla, says that it is virtually impossible for refugees from the countryside to find employment in urban areas, although some manage to find outlets for handicraft products such as fishing nets and hammocks.

Señor Salazar, who was a travelling salesman before he became a full-time relief worker, said the situation throughout the country was worsening daily, with many refugees coming out of western areas.

Although the European Community and world church groups provide food and medicine for the refugees, the Green Cross says that it is unable to cope with the growing health problems in the camps, especially skin and bronchial complaints among children, who make up more than half the total number of refugees.

"We are expecting more refugees all the time. This can only make the medical situation worse," señor Salazar said.

MEN WHO READ THE STARES

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta, Feb 18

Despite the recent Soviet spy scandals in both Indonesia and Malaysia, both countries still saw "the hard stare of the Chinese as much more recognisable" than that of the Russians, *Detik*, Musa Hizam, the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, said today.

Speaking at a press conference after meeting President Suharto, an Indonesian security official, *Detik* Musa said that both sides had "patted one another on the back" for their exposure of Soviet subversion methods.

He also said that while Sino-Soviet rivalry in South-East Asia was intense because of the proximity of China and its history of supporting both the Indonesian and Malaysian Communist parties "as far as we are concerned the Chinese hard stare is much more recognisable."

BLANKET PROTEST IN AMERICA

From Our Own Correspondent, New York, Feb 18

One of the five Irishmen accused of entering the United States illegally went into the second day of a hunger strike today in protest at prison conditions.

Officials of the Erie County jail outside Buffalo, New York, confirmed that Edward Howell, aged 35, was refusing food. The four other Irishmen would join in at five-day intervals, according to their lawyers.

All are also refusing to wear clothes other than underwear and blankets, which is reminiscent of the long so-called protest by republicans at the Maze prison near Belfast.

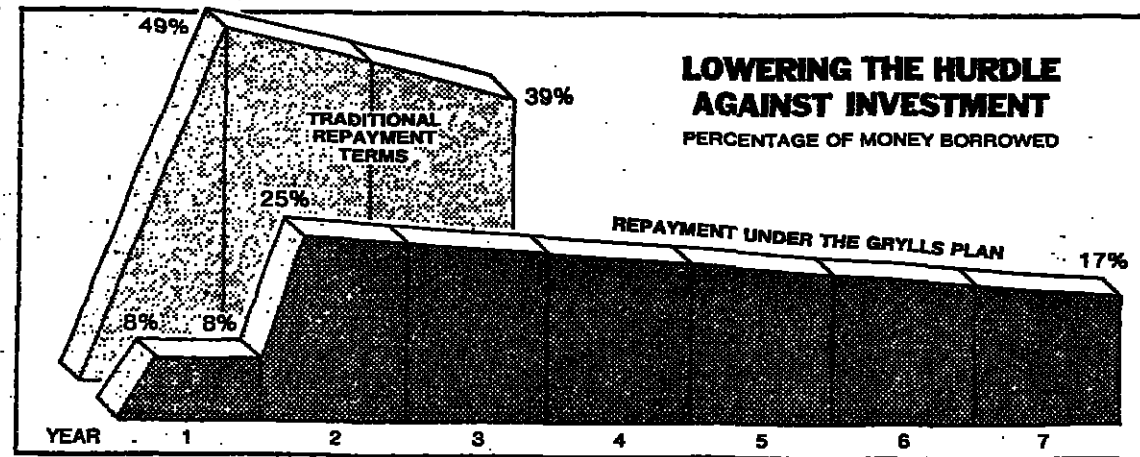
The five men were indicted at Buffalo on Tuesday on federal charges of conspiracy and smuggling.

The other four are charged in the names of Desmond Ellis, William O'Neill, James Kelly and William Gilroy.

George Brock reports on the Budget measure that could bring £7,000m investment and 300,000 new jobs

One small move for Geoffrey Howe, a giant opportunity for industry

As Britain's industrial battalions lobby the Chancellor for costly economic expansion in next month's Budget, a group of Conservative businessmen - led by MP Michael Grylls - has put together a cheap tax change that could play a major part in revitalizing our manufacturing investment.



1 Mr Honks beats the hurdle factor

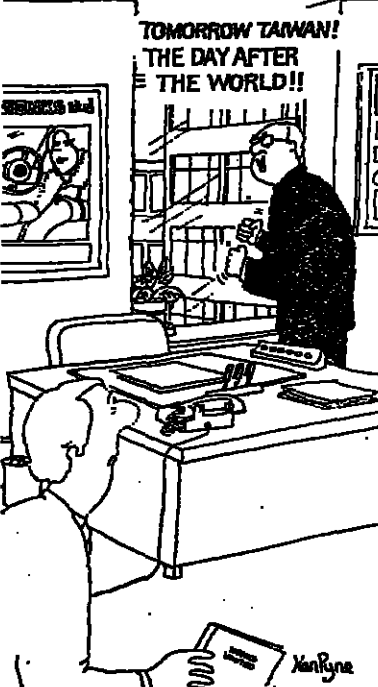
Imagine yourself to be the managing director of a medium-sized firm called Honks Ltd: at your aging factory, 50 people make car hooters. You exist on capital of £1m, half of it raised by overdraft, the rest by loans made for fixed periods. It is obvious to you that to stay ahead in the global hooter market, Honks has to modernize. A year ago, you came close to spending £200,000 on new hooter-making equipment, but gave up when you found how much borrowing the funds would cost. You are surviving the recession, but at a price: a failure to equip for the future; since last year Taiwanese hooters have penetrated the market even further and now the modernization plan is back on your desk.

The figures are still alarming. The bank is ready to lend the

£200,000 at 16 per cent over three years. To meet both the interest and pay back the capital will cost Honks about £90,000 a year for those three years. The new machines should make the production line roughly twice as productive, but the world hooter market is too uncertain to guarantee enough cash coming in. Would it not be better to wait until the promised recovery materializes?

New suppose a different possibility arises? New arrangements between the banks, the Government and industry say that if a loan is made for longer than five years, the payback rate is halved. Companies paying interest on loans are now entitled to claim the cost of that interest as an allowance against corporation tax when they are eventually taxed on any profits. The new plan will give certain firms those allowances straight

away, whether or not they are to pay tax at year end. If they do eventually make a profit, they will be taxed without the allowances. Since most corporations pay tax at 52 per cent, instant allowances will halve the cost of loan repayment. Longer-term loans to industry will become more like house mortgages for which tax relief arrives immediately. You do the sums again. A seven-year loan with no capital being repaid until the second year would mean an average annual cost of £42,000. What some businessmen call the "hurdle rate" is now much easier; Honks does not have to jump so high so fast. That spare cash should mean that you can take on some more men and boost the output of hooters, which because of the new machinery, will be better-priced against the Taiwanese.



2 The Grylls team v. the rest

The above story of Honks Ltd is a simplified fantasy. But it is an example of what a small but energetic group of Conservative businessmen is trying to insert into Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget speech on March 9. A working party set up by Mr Michael Grylls, MP, chairman of the party's backbench industry committee, set out to look for an industrial pick-me-up that would violate as few of the Government's economic rules as possible. They have come up with an ingenious refutation strategy. If it worked, it might be one of the few ways in which this Government could stimulate the economy promptly enough to improve its bleak election chances.

Mr George Edwards, the banking economist and member of the Grylls working party, estimates that £7,000m of new and existing loans might be taken into the scheme in the first year, generating a possible 300,000 jobs. On the ground that each 100,000 new jobs cut between £300m and £600m off the public sector borrowing requirement, Mr Edwards argues that not only will the scheme not lose the Government any tax, but it will help the economy. If the treasury did its sums properly, it would see that, he said.

Edwards has argued for some time that the British financial system is biased against longer-term lending to industry. With

interest rates high, short-term loans create a "liquidity trap" which does not endanger firms in West Germany and Japan where loans are made for longer periods. The working party was also the author of the loan guarantee scheme for small firms which slipped into the Budget last year, proving that it was possible for voices from outside the regular chorus of pre-Budget advice to be heard by the Chancellor. They have been assiduously briefing other individual Cabinet Ministers on their latest brainchild.

In its first version, the study group's report simply suggested that the Government should grin and bear the "loss" of the tax relief paid earlier than usual. The loss would be offset by a "candy" from the Treasury, began hawking the idea around Government departments in the autumn and took a valuable tip from David Young, then political adviser to Patrick Jenkins, the Industrial Secretary, and now the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

Young suggested that the banks be persuaded to carry the first costs and to claim it back only when they paid their own tax. The political leverage was clearly available: banks sensitive about their massive profits might be easier to persuade than the reluctant Treasury and they could charge slightly higher

interest rates to compensate. The scheme could then be presented as no threat to Government revenue.

But the banks are still ambivalent. Robert Leigh-Pemberton, chairman of National Westminster, was reported to have told Conservative backbenchers that he favoured the idea. He now claims that he was misquoted and Ian Morrison of the representative Committee of London Clearing Bank said this week that his remarks had been confined to small and new businesses. It was a personal opinion, said Morrison.

Morrison said that the banks are reserving their position until they see the latest proposal in full, but want to know for certain that they would be able to change over to the new scheme. The cost of carrying the tax relief, what criteria for lending under the scheme will be and how it will be policed against abuse. "There isn't," said Morrison, "massive anecdotal evidence showing that industrialists are saying 'things would be OK if there were some temporary relief even if the tax bill is higher in the end.'"

Treasury officials share some of the doubts about approval mechanisms and policing, but their principal doubt is over whether the Government should encourage the possibility of the monetary expansion that a successful scheme would imply.

The scheme may rate a non-committal mention in Sir Geoffrey's speech. Its chances of anything more substantial seem remote since little detailed work has been done inside the Treasury and what work was done has left the officials with reservations.

The Grylls working party says that there will be no watertight way to prevent "round-tripping" (surplus money being sent into the money markets and back again with a profit) but that the banks should be confident of being able to control abuses. The Grylls group would like policing to be done as spot checks by approved accountants to avoid the need for large numbers of civil servants. It has not so far suggested any detailed criteria for distinguishing between approved industries and "candyfloss" manufacturing would be approved, property speculation would definitely not and hotels might be on the borderline.

Confronted by the money supply argument, the working party tend the direct line adopted by Sir John King, their chairman, of the engineering firm Babcock and Wilcox, when it presented the idea to the Treasury last November. "Chancellor," said Sir John, addressing a crowded room containing two Ministers, officials from the Treasury, Department of Industry and the Inland Revenue, "industry is bleeding".



CANNING The W. CANNING GROUP

Foden

T&N

3 The view from the boardroom

David Probert is the kind of Chief Executive Mrs Thatcher would like: too busy pushing his company upward and outward to mean about the recession. Mr Probert has been spending £2m on producing new ideas and making nearly half of his workforce of 2,300 redundant to keep the company alive. The Canning group, started nearly 200 years ago, now makes specialized chemicals, plating equipment, valve fluids and refines precious metals. It sells technology to IBM and Mitsubishi. "And the banks," says Mr Probert, "have been a hindrance".

Canning's products take three or four years to develop, test and market; not every one works out as intended. Investment has become harder to finance. Mr Probert has his eye on the tiny road maps of gold which lace across printed electrical circuits. He would be well-placed to sell gold wafers, one of the elements which goes into the alloy which makes the "roads".

The necessary laboratory would cost £300,000 and scientists' salaries for two or three years would eat up another £150,000. Raising the money is no problem; the banks, he says, are always keen to lend. But Mr Probert does not want to let his companies to make 25 per cent profit on its operations. A subsidiary which has a new product not making money while it is being tested needs to be balanced with something which makes a lot more than 25 per cent. Gold potassium cyanide will cost too much to develop; so the project is stalled.

Some time in 1983, or possibly 1984, Canning's new phosphating processes and machinery will start to make a profit for the firm. It will have taken seven years and £500,000 to bring off a competitively priced piece of equipment which seals bicycle frames against corrosion, using less energy than other processes. Mr Probert would not embark on such a long haul to "Nowadays when you're raising money," he says, "you want to be able to look at it and say: 'It's going to do a quick pay-off.'"

The banks have woken up slowly to the idea of making longer money available for projects which will not pay immediately. The loan Mr Probert says, should match the schedule.

Bill Foden and Douglas Paybody, chief executive and chairman respectively of Fodens, of Cheshire, at the time of its takeover, calculate that a Grylls scheme would have provided an extra £5m over the last seven years of their difficulties. The sum recurs in their post-mortem arithmetic: during Fodens' final cash-flow crisis it was the amount they asked the Government to lend while they negotiated a takeover by Renault, and it was the amount the Government eventually paid out in redundancy to Fodens employees.

When the lorry-makers, which once employed 3,000 went into the hands of the receiver, 18 months ago, it was snapped up by the Seattle-based PACCAR group. Staff now numbers 700.

Many factors may have contributed to the collapse. The figures are less important than the type of lending it was offered. Fodens was 325 years old and had a remarkably peaceful industrial relations record. In the late 1960s — good years for the truck business — it failed to copy the modernization schemes of competitors, but caught up in the early 1970s when it built a plant for £4m, producing a popular range of tractors, dump trucks, six and eight-wheeled lorries, military vehicles and engines. No sooner was it built than the truck business went into several years of boom and slump. The new plant had been built on existing reserves of cash, but in 1975 a group of 30 City institutions averted a crisis with a £3m loan eventually converted into shares. Cash flow remained difficult.

When the end came, Fodens had an overdraft facility of £7m and a £5m seven-year loan. The seven-year loan was the odd loan out: the bulk of its finance had been overdrafts converted into share issues. Banks which are criticized for lending "short" often reply that many industrialists prefer overdrafts: they adjust to precise needs and work out cheaper.

What would lower-cost, longer loans have helped Fodens? Barry Baldwin, a partner at Price Waterhouse and a member of the Grylls working party, commented: "No one can say for sure, but one thing Fodens needed was a stable cash flow. A higher proportion of borrowing at a lower cost than the short run could only have helped."

Martin Bell, finance director of Turnball & Newall, watches his company's attempts to modernize textile machinery in a Rochdale plant which employs 3,000 people and which is fighting fierce overseas competition. In T & N terms, the machines, at £500,000 each, are not costly, and they are 10 times more productive than the present ones. But the cash is not available to install them quickly.

In a group as large as T & N, which controls plastics, construction, chemical and mining firms, any Grylls scheme would affect the rate of new investment.

T & N spends about £10m a year on capital projects in Britain and does not find that its supply of money is short, but that interest rates endanger cash flow. It could use Grylls's advantages on only half that sum it would immediately have an additional margin of £400,000 a year.

Mr Bell said: "The Grylls scheme would obviously have an immediate effect. Cash flow would improve and boards of directors are more likely to go ahead with projects at a more economic rate."

What Mr Bell calls the "hurdle rate" of payments make contracts investment tougher all the time. "Nowadays you're looking for a two or two-and-a-half year payback," he said. "Longer-term money is available but at floating interest rates and that makes it difficult to look further out. You want modernization, cost-saving, energy-saving schemes which can make 40 per cent. There aren't many of those."

"If such a scheme starts, I hope it would be used not just for brand new 'green field' sites, but for modernization of existing plant. It is essential that we keep our machinery modern and have the up-to-date technology used by competitors."

Mr Bell's enthusiasm for the Grylls scheme is fired by the attractions of being able to use present conditions.

Court of Appeal

No rates before property is in full use

British Telecommunications v. Kenneth District Council. Before Lord Justice Waller, Lord Justice Kerr and Sir George Baker. [Judgment delivered February 18]

When a new telephone exchange building is occupied by British Telecommunications, the rating authority argued that the rate was based on the building and included no element for occupation because the building was not a bonded warehouse it was in ratable occupation while necessary alterations were being carried out, and it was the making of alterations with the intention of carrying on a business when they were completed did not constitute ratable occupation.

Here the rating authority conceded that if what was done to the buildings had involved work on the structure there would have been no ratable occupation until completion of that work but they contended that since this was plant the principles enunciated in the *Arwick* case did not apply. In that case the rating authority was in some way enjoying the accommodation being occupied and the owner was preparing for future occupation. Although Lord Reid was not considering the installation of a plant or improvement taking three months excluded ratable occupation and the installation of plant taking eight to 15 months did not also do so.

Also, Lord Reid pointed out the fallacy of saying that because some beneficial use was being made in that case an alteration, therefore there was ratable occupation. Ratable occupation did not exist unless the owner was occupying the property for the only use which was being contemplated, namely for operating a telephone exchange, and so long as the activities were confined to making the premises fit for that purpose it was not the kind of actual user as was essential to ratable occupation.

valuation was made because the possessor was able to occupy and use the property for its intended purpose, which was when the exchange was in working order. The rating authority argued that since the rate was based on the building and included no element for occupation because the building was not a bonded warehouse it was in ratable occupation while necessary alterations were being carried out, and it was the making of alterations with the intention of carrying on a business when they were completed did not constitute ratable occupation.

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His Lordship would allow the appeal and hold that ratable occupation did not commence until the premises were available for the use as a telephone exchange and that British Telecommunications were not in ratable occupation during the period when the building was being altered.

LORD JUSTICE KERR, agreeing, said that on the facts no distinction was drawn between the time when the buildings were completed and the time when the work of installation began. However, it was common ground that British Telecommunications could not have been liable to pay rates at any time earlier than when the work began, because it was only at that time that they could be said to have been in occupation in any sense of the term. Accordingly the question was whether they were liable to pay rates as from that moment and the answer was in the negative.

SIR GEORGE BAKER, dissenting, said that in the ordinary sense of the word each of the buildings was actually occupied as a matter of fact from the starting date of the respective period. There were acts of user by British Telecommunications; apparatus was being installed, men were working, and equipment was being tested. The only question for decision was whether the occupation was of some value to the occupier, and the value or benefit did not have to be necessary for the purpose of the occupation. There was actual benefit to British Telecommunications. It had required buildings in which to install telephonic equipment and it had such buildings constructed. It had taken possession of the buildings and had begun to install the equipment by its contractors.

There was some benefit although ultimately other more valuable advantages would flow. The decided cases did not compel the conclusion that as the buildings were not ready for their ultimate use as operational telephone exchanges they were not ratable and would not be ratable until they were occupied as operational or at least ready for service. In the *Arwick* case the company's use of the premises as a bonded warehouse did not start until the alterations were approved by the Customs and Excise, and only then could it

carry on the business of warehousemen. Here the telephonic business of British Telecommunications was not only the operation and maintenance of the ultimate service when calls were made, but was concerned with every thing antecedent thereto which was necessary to produce that service. The purpose of the buildings was to house telephonic equipment and they were ready and being used for that purpose.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal. Solicitors: Mr P. G. Ashcroft; Mr S. N. Weighell, Devizes.

Solicitor's duty varies with clients

Carradine Properties Ltd v D. J. Freeman & Co. The solicitor's duty was to exercise all reasonable care and skill in and about his client's business in which he was engaged but the scope of that duty depended upon the extent to which the client appeared to need advice. An inexperienced client required more advice than an experienced one.

The Court of Appeal (The Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evershed and Lord Justice Donaldson) on February 18 held that the defendant solicitors were not liable for breach of duty in not advising when Carradine Properties Ltd held a property owner's liability insurance policy.

Treatment of juries

Regina v Wallace. Lord Justice Ackner (sitting with Mr Justice Stocker and Mr Justice Mervin) said in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on February 12 that it was wrong for counsel to treat a jury as a computer expected to absorb highly complex evidence but then to consider them totally incapable of retaining any part of the evidence and in need of reminder not only in the defence closing speech but also by the judge in his summing up. A judge was entitled, and should normally assume, that a jury had a capacity of a case.

Law Report February 19 1982

Extending scope of injunction

Horne v Horner. Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Dunn and Sir Sebag Shaw. [Judgment delivered February 18]

Harassment of a party to a marriage by sending threatening postcards and making frequent telephone calls to her place of work was conduct which amounted to molestation within the provisions of the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976, the Court of Appeal held, allowing an appeal by a wife from the refusal of Judge MacManus in Horsham County Court to grant her a fresh injunction.

Mr Philip Newman for the wife: the husband did not appear and was not represented. LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the judge had been right to refuse an injunction because the wife had been granted an assault injunction by justices in July 1981 that she was adequately protected and that the proceedings in the county court were a duplication of proceedings and adding to the costs.

The powers of the county court under the provisions of the 1976 Act were much wider than those granted to justices under the Domestic Proceedings and Magistrates' Courts Act 1978. The injunction sought by the wife was probably outside the provisions of the 1978 Act, section 16 of which referred to the use of violence or threat to use violence against the applicant or a child of the family.

The applicant in section 10(1) of the 1976 Act could apply to such a degree of harassment. The wife was suffering considerably from the husband's actions. The injunction would be granted, and the husband restrained from molesting or assaulting the wife. The court had been urged to such a power of arrest to the order. That power should be used very sparingly and only if the applicant had suffered bodily harm, which was likely to be repeated. Lord Justice Dunn and Sir Sebag Shaw agreed. Solicitors: Haxall, Erskine & Co, Horsham.

Divisional Court

Licensing fees policy lawful

Regina v The Greater London Council, Ex parte The Rank Organisation Ltd. Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Gildewell. [Judgment delivered February 18]

The policy of seeking to raise a substantial part of the cost of the licensing system out of the fees charged was not an irrelevant consideration in fixing the scale of fees to be charged and was a legitimate aim of the system. Nor less moral than the previous system under which the cost was borne by the general body of ratepayers.

The Divisional Court so held in refusing an application by the Rank Organisation Ltd, for a declaration that the manner in which the Greater London Council had fixed the scale of fees payable by the Rank Organisation for the grant, renewal or transfer of annual licences for public music and dancing had been arbitrary, unreasonable, improper, contrary to natural justice, and the fees thereby fixed unlawful; and had been outside the council's powers.

Mr J. J. Finney for the applicants; Mr Charles George for the GLC.

Foreign debts convert on winding-up

In re Lines Bros Ltd (in Liquidation). For the purpose of applying the property of a company in creditors' voluntary liquidation in satisfaction of its liabilities *par passu* pursuant to section 302 of the Companies Act 1948, foreign currency debts of the company, existing at the date of liquidation, should be converted into sterling at the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of the resolution to wind up, the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Lawton, Lord Justice Brightman and Lord Justice Oliver) held on February 11. It had been argued that since *Mitlanglo v George Frank (Textiles) Ltd* (1975) AC 443 all liquidators should either pay dividends in the foreign currency or in the sterling equivalent, at the date of payment.

Allowance to be taken into account

Walker v Walker. The single-parent allowance was a financial resource of a party to a marriage under section 23 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 and had to be taken into account when considering how to exercise the powers under sections 23 and 24. Lord Justice Dunn (sitting with Lord Justice Ormrod and Sir Sebag Shaw) held in the Court of Appeal on February 17.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the judge had disregarded the single-parent allowance which the wife received and had adopted the view expressed by Mr Justice Warrington in *M v M* (unreported October 9, 1979) AC 443 that a single-parent allowance was any other state benefit, a financial resource and had to be taken into account when considering financial provision.

Renewed protest ruled out

Mayes and Another v Minister of Transport and Another. The Court of Appeal (Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Evershed and Lord Justice Donaldson) held on February 4 that an inspector at a public local inquiry set up to hear objections to draft schemes and orders relating to side roads and interchanges to be built on a section of the M25 motorway, was entitled to refuse to hear the objections directed to a reconsideration of the line of the motorway, which had already been determined in 1974 after public inquiries.

Four voices from the West: in the final article James Callaghan warns of threats to the Nato from both sides of the Atlantic

We must heal the divided alliance



All of us return a ringing "no" to the question "Will the alliance break apart?" We point to previous periods in its life when crisis were surmounted, none more serious than when General de Gaulle withdrew from Nato and expelled all Nato installations and personnel from France. My own party, which has gone pre-emptively anti-nuclear, recently threw out by an overwhelming majority a conference proposal that Britain should withdraw from Nato. There is no prospect of the alliance breaking up. The real worry is that it becomes so divided that it is incapable of taking concerted action.

Poland, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Siberian gas pipeline, even the Olympic Games, all found the Alliance at odds. Of course, we paper over the cracks, but our differences are as obvious to the Soviet Union as they are to us. It is true that members of the alliance have always had different perspectives and we must accept that there will never be mechanical uniformity. But while I do not wish to exaggerate the alliance's difficulties, I fear we have recently lost sight of a common political purpose, and, without that, vacuum strategy exists in a vacuum.

There are fundamental contradictions in American fiscal, monetary and taxation policy which are weakening the economies of the West, and unless quickly changed, will lead to even higher unemployment, to growing protectionism and to exchange controls. Quite apart from these serious errors the alliance no longer has the thrust that as recently as 1974 was set out in the Declaration on Atlantic Relations, approved by all the member states of the North Atlantic Council. Let me remind you:

In Europe their objective continues to be the pur-

suit of understanding and cooperation with every European country. We had the Eastern bloc in mind.

Or again: "It is in the interests of all that every country benefit from technical and economic progress in an open and equitable world system". That covers the gas pipeline from Siberia to Germany.

Once more: (the alliance's) common aims requires the maintenance of close consultation, cooperation and mutual trust".

Hardly consistent with murmurings across the Atlantic that it is a combination of timidity and greed that characterizes Europe's present attitude towards the Soviet Union.

The reality is that the present American administration no longer subscribes to those parts of the 1974 Declaration, although it continues to be fully convinced that the North Atlantic Treaty is the basis for our common security. They would argue that the 1974 Declaration is now superseded by the growth of the military power of the Soviet Union and that her actions in Afghanistan, Africa and elsewhere prove that it is an expansionist power that must be checked.

Europeans go along with part of this analysis, but they do not accept the conclusions that are drawn. For example, as long as Germany is divided she will have an important national interest in maintaining relations with the Eastern bloc. Again, unrest and stability in the Third World and the anti-Western attitude of some of these countries cannot merely be ascribed to the hand of Russia. There is growing up a basic difference between the way in which America and Europe view the world, and until our broad perceptions come together again, the alliance

will be ineffective. Take Poland. The Russians complain that what happens there is none of our business. But of course it is, especially since the signing of the Helsinki agreement and Chancellor Schmidt, for one, has stated Germany's position. Their policy is to assist a gradual evolution of Polish institutions towards a plural society, and Germany will take such steps in matters of trade, finance, food supplies, as will assist that end. Helmut Schmidt speaks for many of us in this. I wish I were equally clear about the policy of the United States.

It seems to me that Zbigniew Brzezinski was saying much the same in his article opening this series. Is this also President Reagan's view? He must know by now that there is an uncertainty about America's policy (and not only in this area), which makes it difficult even for America's friends to understand the present strategy. The rhetoric used by some in the United States could lead the Russians to conclude that their underlying hope is for a sudden and complete change in Poland's political order.

Such a happening is not only improbable, it would destabilize Europe, and we should be very sceptical of those who believe it would bring about a liberal democratic society. One thing is certain: the Russians will never again allow Poland to be used as a pathway for attack. We have no reason to quarrel with that and the West's policy should be shaped accordingly.

We would do the people of eastern Europe a disservice if we re-ignited the Cold War. For I have no doubt that the negotiations of the Helsinki agreements generated a gradual reforming pressure by bringing human rights to Eastern Europe within the arena of international debate.

There is no way to end

the East-West conflict, but we must aim to keep it under control, recognizing that the ideological battle will not cease. War in Europe would be utterly disastrous. Any conflict on the European mainland would inevitably lead to uncontrollable escalation. Tidy theories of controlled escalation would disappear at once in the blind chaos of battlefields contaminated by nuclear and chemical fall-out, when the existence of a continent is at stake.

War must be prevented. Disarmament and arms control must be part of the alliance security policy, not an alternative to it. A military balance is a precondition for security in Europe and for the relaxation of tension. We have had disarmament talks but no disarmament. They will continue to fail unless America accepts that military superiority is a chimera. What is needed is a comprehensive ban on the development of new weapons and the reversal of present policies in both East and West to stock up on armaments, both in quantity and quality.

President Reagan's campaign policy, prior to his election, of increasing defence spending, undoubtedly had the support of many Americans. But the time has come for the administration to give a decisive lead to their own people in explaining that the truths of world politics are much more complex than an attempt to secure an unattainable military

superiority. Peace can be kept through military balance and dialogue, but not through military superiority. It is also essential that the American people understand that whatever the truth about the expansionist aims of the Soviet Union, that country does not lie at the root of every one of the world's ills. Poverty, injustice and oppression in the Third World, are themselves threats to the security and interests of the world as a whole. The United States has an historical role to play by giving a lead in this understanding.

The Europeans have a better understanding of the complexities of the present world difficulties than the United States. I am sorry about our differences, but they in no way weaken our fidelity to the alliance. In present circumstances we must agree to differ with the United States, but we must continue to discuss our differences with them and persuade them of the need to take a different view. For without the positive agreement of the United States, the alliance cannot give a clear lead in the world.

I am optimistic that the well-known capacity of the American people to learn from practical experience and adapt to reality will enable the alliance to recover its vision and its dynamism.

James Callaghan was Labour Prime Minister from 1976 to 1979.



David Watt

The urgent case for a money-saving missile

Within the next week the Cabinet is expected to make its decision on whether to prolong Britain's possession of nuclear weapons into the twenty-first century. It will be the climax of a long and abstruse debate. Should we purchase (and build submarines to carry) the very powerful new American Trident missiles as successors to the aging Polaris weapons and, if so, in a more or less advanced version?

Should we reject these very costly submarine-launched rockets in favour of cheaper, sea-launched Cruise missiles? Or should we simply fade out of the nuclear weapons business in the mid-1990s, when our present submarines become obsolete?

These options have been pretty widely canvassed in the press, in academic literature, and in Parliament, but it has been an oddly disjointed discussion. The expert has been largely confined to the defence Establishment, with the civilian bureaucrats and submariners on the whole lined up in favour of buying the best deterrent they can get, against the deep misgivings of the chiefs of the conventional services, who fear the effect of the huge expenditure on their own budgets.

The public, on the other hand, has let the technicalities slip by and is basically split between those who believe that we should abandon nuclear weapons upon moral grounds and those who feel generally safer and stronger for having some kind of deterrent.

The Cabinet, being laymen, but also for the most part "convinced" men, have some difficulty in making sense of all this. The final option — that of getting out of nuclear weapons altogether — will, of course, get short shrift. The Prime Minister, like her predecessor, is adamantly opposed to it. Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary, would probably resign before adopting it, and the Conservative Party in the country would find every hard to stomach.

The sea-launched Cruise option has also virtually been eliminated by reason of its prospective vulnerability to new Russian ground-to-air defensive systems.

The choice, as presented by the Ministry of Defence, will therefore be between the two versions of Trident — the C4, which we originally intended to buy but which the Americans will cease to manufacture, and the C5, which is more powerful and expensive

D5 which is now to be the main American submarine-launched strategic weapon until well into the twenty-first century.

The MOD preference is for the D5, which it will back with two main arguments. One boils down to the proposition that unless we buy the C4 second-hand as the Americans discard them (not considered very attractive from the point of view either of efficiency or national pride) they are not likely to turn out much less expensive than their successors in the long run. And though they admittedly give us more range and power than we strictly need, they are better value for money.

The second argument, which spikes the Treasury's guns, is that the immediate down-payments on the D5 are smaller than on the C4, and the big outlay will not come until after the election. On this basis it looks more and more like a walkover for Mr Nott.

This result will naturally appeal the nuclear disarmers, but there remain two strong reasons for finding it objectionable, even if we start from the Cabinet's own overall assumption that it is essential for Britain to maintain its own deterrent. The first is the political point that the more expensive option chosen (and incidentally the more delayed the down-payment) the more likely the decision is to be

Labour is committed to jettisoning the deterrent, but a more modest commitment might have a better chance of surviving a coalition with a Liberal/SDP alliance.

overturned by an incoming government of a different complexion in 1984. The Labour Party is committed to jettisoning the deterrent anyway, but a more modest commitment might have a better chance of surviving a coalition with a Liberal/SDP alliance.

A more substantial (and, I believe) extremely powerful argument against the Trident D5 starts from the question: "What kind of deterrent does Britain actually need?" We do not ask this question often enough, and unless the Cabinet is prepared to ask it again the MOD case will be carried by default. The MOD has always assumed (and its present case is based on the assumption) that what we wanted from our own strategic nuclear weapons is the assured second-strike ability to destroy the Soviet Government and command system (that is, to penetrate the defence surrounding Moscow and one or two of the largest Soviet cities).

The V-bombers, the Polaris, and most recently the improved Polaris (Chevaline) systems in our possession have each in their turn been capable of fulfilling this function. Unless the Russians start investing huge new sums in anti-ballistic missile defence, Trident would provide it to perhaps 2020.

But do we need to penetrate the Moscow defence? Would it not be a sufficient deterrent to the Russians to destroy British cities (which is really the only serious function of the British long-range nuclear weapons anyhow) that they

should know that 15 other large Russian cities would be devastated by the British sea-sting response? If it would, then the missile-purchasing picture looks very different, for another option is immediately revived.

The new British Chevaline warheads are good for the more limited purpose outlined above until well into the next century, and though we should have to renew their rocket motors in the late 1990s and would have to plan immediately for the building of new submarines to carry them, when our present Polaris submarines are obsolete in about 1993, there is no intrinsic reason why they could not be made to last at a far lower cost than Trident.

The MOD reply to this proposition is twofold. First they say that the deterrent value of a "flesher cities" strategy is insufficient. Secondly they argue that it would be grossly inefficient, given that we have to build new submarines anyhow, to give them the capacity to carry larger missiles than Polaris/Chevaline, later on, and that if one does this the cost is a little less than the purchase of Trident, so why not buy Trident anyhow?

Neither of these counter-arguments is conclusive. The first is, of course, a matter of speculation, but in the kind of scenario which would bring the British deterrent into play as a significant factor (i.e. one in which (a) the Soviet Union was threatening nuclear destruction of Western Europe and (b) the willingness of the United States to risk its own cities in support of Europe was in doubt) it does not look as if the destruction of London and Birmingham would be a very attractive exchange for the incineration of an equal number of Russians, even though they live outside Moscow.

If the Russians were confident that the United States would stay passive (in itself an unlikely supposition) they would be better to threaten the annihilation of Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Rome, or other cities in countries not possessed of nuclear weapons.

As to the second argument, it is really the expression of the determination of all defence ministries to have the equipment that represents the latest state of the art. What is needed from our new submarines in order to cope with the latest advances in anti-submarine warfare is that they should be quieter, that they should have better sensors, that they should not have to return to port so often.

This is in itself, obviously, an expensive programme; but it need not be as expensive by quite such a large margin as what is now envisaged, and the question we're about to ask — arguments need far more critical examination than they normally receive.

If one could be sure, of course, that the money saved on Trident could be spent on lowering the nuclear threshold in Europe by expenditure on the improvement of our conventional forces there, the argument would be stronger still. In fact, of course, if we have no idea the money is likely to find its way into domestic purposes or possibly into the purchase of other defence equipment far less important. The machinations of the Treasury and the inter-service rivalries which still abound in the Ministry of Defence will see to that. But that is hardly a consideration that the Cabinet can admit to. They had better, like the French, decide what is required for a limited role and buy as cheaply as they can.

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Max Harris, aged 9 is moving into gold

by Peter Watson

It has been a good winter for Gregory Richards of Chicago. Despite the general economic climate, his Lockheed shares have performed so well that he has just begun investing in silver. Nothing so unusual in that, you may think. But Greg Richards is aged 11, and the hundreds of dollars he has made on the Stock Exchange stem from the fact that he has stopped buying sweets and model tanks with his pocket money and now uses his cash in more adult ways.

What is more, as his mother Susan is the first to admit, Greg is not a particularly brilliant 11-year-old either. Plenty of other American children are now doing the same thing. A poll just completed by Rand Youth Surveys of New York finds that no fewer than 12 per cent of American children

between the ages of eight and 19 now own stocks and shares.

The trend is growing so fast that two schools in Manhattan have begun to offer courses for 12 and 13-year-olds which introduce them to the stock market.

In one school, where the head requested to remain anonymous to avoid the attentions of would-be kidnappers, each of the 12 and 13 year olds was given a national \$500,000 last September. As of this week the best child in the class has improved his "portfolio" to \$650,000 and the worst has dropped to under \$400,000. Whoever has the most money at the end of the academic year in June wins a free trip to the stock market and lunch with top brokers.

In the second school, in Chinatown, the pupils actu-

ally use their own pocket money but this is pooled. Their most hair-raising incident to date was when they came in one morning, checked the Wall Street Journal and found that the shares in Kellogg had risen nearly halved overnight. Not until the teacher arrived was it pointed out that stock had been split and they had actually made money.

Max Harris, from New York, who is pushing nine, has moved into gold. Not much, it is true, but enough for him to follow the price fluctuations each day with more than passing interest. Michael Schechter, 17, of Colorado, is in real estate and Tammy Samph, 14, in Washington, has been trying her hand, so far unsuccessfully, on the Commodities market (coffee, unfortunately).

Stories like these were just anecdotes until Lester Rand published his survey showing that one in eight children is now sophisticated enough to play the stock market, a percentage which has more than doubled in the last five years.

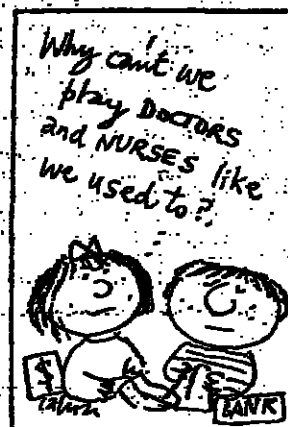
Several reasons are given for this change in use of pocket money. One is inflation. Children now aged eight to 12, say the psychologists, are the first generation to have grown up entirely at a time when inflation has been in or very near double figures and their pocket money has been hit the same as everything else. A more convincing explanation perhaps, is the one that blames divorce.

Studies show that in America divorced parents tend to lavish money on their children out of guilt for the separation. Large numbers of

children, therefore, now have fewer parents around the home but far more money.

Then there is *Pennypower*, a magazine started a year ago by the United States consumer union. Aimed at eight to 12-year-olds, this began with articles telling children how to shop around for better quality, more educational toys, and the more nutritious orange juice. But, following the enormous response to an issue it ran on banking facilities for children, it has now started offering modest advice on investment rates, which banks encourage the smaller saver and so on.

Through this, several children who in one way or another have amassed "1,000" have found that they can then open a money market fund account, paying 15 per



cent, and in some cases have then gone on to play with foreign currencies.

Not all the children are cocky whizz kids. But Thomas H. aged 10, from Los Angeles, is. When asked what he was going to do with all the money he has made, he replied: "Save it till I'm a millionaire, then buy a TV set." It almost makes you wish he turns out to be right.

In war, in peace you need his help



A donation, a covenant, a legacy to THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND will help soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families in distress

How McCarthyism nearly derailed Mrs Thatcher

Mrs Thatcher

Lord McCarthy, who as chairman of the Railway Staffs National Union must shortly decide whether train drivers will get their 3 per cent without flexible rostering, has already played a major part in increasing public sector pay without compensating gains in productivity. It goes far beyond the railways and farther than even the angriest Conservative MPs are likely to suspect.

In the 1978-1979 winter of discontent McCarthy was co-author with Professor Hugh Clegg of a joint paper requested by James Callaghan, advising how the public sector might be reformed. It was this report which led to the creation of the standing commission on pay comparability, with Clegg as chairman, in March 1979.

Honouring some of the seemingly generous Clegg awards nearly ruined Mrs Thatcher's economic strategy in the early months of her Government, before the commission's abolition was announced in August 1980.

In mitigation of McCarthy's role it should be said that the paper he and Clegg submitted proposed a standing commission which would subsume all the other pay review bodies, which the Clegg Commission never did and which would be in the background to supply objective facts, not involved in settling individual disputes. Clegg's commission spent its short life racing from one dispute to another like a overworked (and probably underpaid) policeman.

THE TIMES DIARY

The one Government form Sir Derek Rogers singled out for criticism in his report to the Prime Minister was designed by Angela Strong while still a student at Reading University. The form itself tells me, though it is one of the very few concessions to unnecessary

information that IR 33 — Income tax and school leavers — makes

She has now graduated to be book designer with J.M. Dent, publishers. You can find a weightier example of her work, than the one Rogers described as "parlour good" in John Dixon Hunt's book about Ruskin, *The Wider Sea*, published last week.

Star guest

Patrick Moore, the star-gazer with the knitting-needle eyebrows, was among Britain's supreme sovietologists last evening at the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Russia and the Soviet Union in London. Moore, author of *Can you speak Venusian?*, contributed the section on Russian lunar research.

The encyclopedia, first of its kind for 20 years, has contributions from more than 300 scholars on every facet of Soviet life. The piece on pop music is written by our own Michael Binayan.

Steiner on stage

Even a clutch of rave reviews for Christopher Hampton's adaptation of his novel *The Voyage to San Cristobal of A. E.* (the *Financial Times* was one, sorry exception) has not thrilled Professor George Steiner as much as the play itself.

For a writer and scholar to watch his most personal allegories and metaphors spring into physical shape and blaze into tremendous

listen to 24 Hours and The World Today. They are not intended for domestic consumption, but for listeners abroad whose first language is not necessarily English," he says.

Brother McDuck

Alas! PHS has unwittingly brought the Labour Party into conflict with that other great comedy house, Walt Disney Productions. My note on Wednesday about MEPs' disquiet about the Labour Party using Donald Duck as Tory spokesman in a political education programme brought instant action from Keith Bales, vice-president and copyright director for Disney.

"Ours is not Donald Duck," Labour spokesmen protested. "He does not wear a blue sailor suit. He is called Scrooge McDuck and he speaks in a Scottish accent. Donald's accent is American." This happy defence is not likely to suffice. Bales adds: "In a postscript: 'It must be understood that any use of characters must not look like, or be interpreted as, our copyright because we would bring immediate passing-off action.'

Talking head

The BBC World Service has a new head of talks and current affairs. Michael Sumner succeeds to a position formerly held by Douglas Muggidge, now managing director of external broadcasting, and Gerald Mansell, who retired as deputy director general.

Sumner's department is responsible for a quarter of the World Service output, and has enormous audiences for some of its programmes. An estimated 12 million listen to *Outlook*, but Sumner admits, it is rather an embarrassment how many people at home

Access, the credit card company, is running a competition to find Britain's best shop assistant. As an eliminator, 1,600 entrants were asked to put the required characteristics of an ideal shop assistant in the same order of importance voted by customers. Of the 1,600 only three got the order right.

Divine inspiration

Chris Wright, managing director of a computer software firm, stumbled on a high-technology idea while pouring for water. He met some Wiltshire dairy farmers who wanted to computerize their administration and the system he devised to cut down doorstep milk bills is now attracting inquiries from as far away as Pakistan.

Son of Diary Quiz

By popular demand, here are a few cryptic questions about the week's events for addicts who have been missing the Diary Quiz. Answers will be in Monday's column.

1. Who acted with 'calculated insincerity'?

2. What pedestrian fact links Luton, Plymouth and Walswich?

3. On what subject are Conservative MEPs plumbing the depths?

4. Whose performance was judged off form?

PHS



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

SIR PETER HIT THE BUFFERS

The railways board has chosen to tread the path of humiliation mapped out for it by Lord McCarthy, not that he left it with much choice when he decided to make it the victim of last August's ACAS-sponsored fudge. The latest three-cornered bout with ACAS has not produced any clear commitment by Aslef to the principle of flexible rostering as that is understood by the board. The most it produced was an assurance that the union does not rule out in advance negotiation under that heading. Not much of a fig leaf there, in spite of Sir Peter Parker's brave attempt to magnify the cover provided.

And of course Aslef has agreed to the strict timetable Lord McCarthy laid down for negotiation and arbitration if necessary, arbitration by which Aslef is most unlikely to make itself bound. Not much of a fig leaf there either.

There is however another garment in which the board can clothe its nakedness as it enters the negotiating chamber. When last summer it was presented by the Railway Staff National Tribunal with a wages award appreciably higher than any it had the money for, the board declared that if the topping of 3 per cent was to be paid it would have to be made self-financ-

ing. The method of financing it which the board quite rightly went for was that of making working practices on the railways less crippling inefficient. It brought the NUR and the salaried staffs along with it and agreed measures of labour productivity with them, including flexible rostering where it applied.

But though the best, more efficient working practice is not the only method by which money can be found to pay the extra wages. It can be found by employing fewer train drivers. If the final stage of these drawn-out proceedings, to be concluded by mid-March, does not produce a negotiated agreement on the rostering of footplate-men, or if Lord McCarthy (for it will be he) hands down an arbitration award that fails to yield sufficient productivity to cover the cost of the extra wages the board is now to be obliged to pay, or if Aslef refuses to accept the award that is handed down, the railways board should immediately set about shedding labour to the precise extent that is needed to match the cost of the three per cent.

So that no one shall be left in any doubt about its intention, the board should make known before the final round of negotiations begins that this is what it means to do

and spell out the implication in the number of jobs to be shed. The Government too should approve that intention and indicate that the board's borrowing limits will be regulated accordingly. The job losses should be made to fall on that branch of the railway service that has withheld its cooperation, and they should be chosen so as to minimize curtailment of services to the public so far as possible.

The purpose of the threat is not to punish Aslef or seek partial revenge upon it but to drive home the lesson that there is no commercial future for the railways, no security for its employees and no grand investment strategy unless management and men, individually and through their unions, heartily accept the objective of productive efficiency. As chairman of the board Sir Peter Parker has preached and practised that. He has rightly staked a lot on the issue of flexible working by footplate-men, for that is the key factor obstructing the efficient use of their time. If he fails to carry the point he will resign, he says. The conjunction would be greatly regretted. But the priority Sir Peter has insisted upon will survive him. One may be confident that any successor appointed by this government will share that priority. It will not go away.

TEST FOR SPANISH DEMOCRACY

The military trial which opens outside Madrid today will be followed with close attention both inside and outside Spain. Before the court will be those officers, including three generals, who have been charged with responsibility for the attempted coup of a year ago. The attempt dealt a shattering blow to the self-confidence of Spain's fledgling democracy, and one from which it has still not recovered. So the way in which the case is handled, and the verdicts which are reached, will be vital for the future of that democracy. They will show whether the system which has developed since the death of General Franco is strong enough to handle the outright assault which it underwent last February; and whether it has a chance of preventing further attempts of the same sort in future.

To most outside observers in western Europe it is self-evident that last February's outrage was an attempt against the government and the people of Spain. A small group of military men, dissatisfied with the way things were going, decided to take the law into their own hands and impose their own views on the rest of the country by force. A detachment from the Civil Guard seized the Parliament building and held the members at gunpoint, while attempts were made to rally support from military commanders elsewhere round the country. The attempt failed because of hesitations among

these commanders and because King Juan Carlos threw the whole weight of his own prestige into combating the coup.

But that is not the way that it appeared to many members of the armed forces and to rightists in Spain's civilian population. To them, the attempted coup was the work of patriots taking justified action against the ills they saw in contemporary Spain — the terrorism in the Basque country, the poor state of the economy, the increase in crime and even such steps as the move to legalize divorce. This sort of attitude is not shared by the majority of the Spanish population. But it is widespread in the armed forces, as has become uncomfortably clear over the past year. For them and for other rightists Colonel Tejero, who led the takeover of Parliament, and General Milans del Bosch, who ordered tanks into the streets of Valencia, have become heroes fit for adulation.

The task of the military court should be, therefore, to demonstrate firmly and clearly that that is not so, and that military rebellion is wholly unacceptable. How far it will do this is, however, one of the main questionmarks over the proceedings. Attempts will undoubtedly be made by counsel for the defendants to appeal to military esprit de corps by presenting the case as one brought against the army as a whole. It is possible that the members of the court

may feel a certain sympathy for their fellow officers in the dock. So there is a danger of the court appearing to minimize the seriousness of the charges, or even allowing the proceedings to turn into a denunciation of democracy. Most damaging of all would be a decision to impose no more than derisory sentences on any officers found guilty.

The government of Señor Calvo Sotelo was aware of these risks when it decided, in the aftermath of the attempted coup, to hand the case over to the military system of justice. It could have had the defendants tried in a civil court, and that might have seemed to be the proper place, since they are charged with conspiring to overthrow the government. But it is still afraid, and it is still afraid, of an angry reaction from the army if it felt it was being demeaned.

There are clear advantages in having the case heard before a military court, provided it is properly handled. A severe sentence passed by fellow officers would have a good chance of being accepted by the greater part of the army, while a similar sentence passed by a civil court might seem to them to be vindictive. And it would do much to disabuse the officer caste of the notion, deeply rooted in Spanish history, that it is above the law. The lesson would be timely as Spain prepares to join the other western European democracies in Nato and the European Community.

HIGHER SPEED AND HIGHER PRICE

At the very time that petrol prices are falling by 5 per cent and more, the state electricity and gas industries are now announcing increases of around 10 and 25 per cent respectively in their tariffs. Not for the first time the British consumer is being faced with the glaring disparity between the free market where prices have responded to recession and the state sector where prices continue to rise in response to costs rather than demand. Not for the first time, the consumer's response has been to blame the inefficiencies and monopoly power of the nationalized industries.

Understandable this reaction may be. Fair it is not. The rate of increase in gas prices in particular, but also of electricity prices, is very much the reflection of political decision rather than internal efficiency (although inefficiency there undoubtedly is). Three years ago the Government decided that gas prices which had tended to be low compared to other fuels because of North Sea gas prices agreed in pre-energy crisis days, should rise by around 10 per cent above inflation for three years so that they could close the gap with competitive fuels such as electricity. The coming financial year will be the third year of such policy, conveniently completing the cycle in good time to see a slowing down in gas prices in the run-up to an election. The electricity industry decision on prices is a little different. In its case, the rate of increase has been imposed by the target of

return set by the government two years ago — a target which the industry now feels is too tight for a recession but which the government, or rather the Treasury, has insisted must be adhered to. The result in both cases, is a series of price rises for which the nationalized industries disclaim responsibility, from which the government conveniently keeps its distance and which the consumer none-the-less has to suffer.

There is reason in this madness. In seeking deliberately to accelerate the pace of gas price rises beyond the wishes of the gas industry itself, the government has been trying to bring some balance to the competitive market for fuels. By an accident of history, the gas industry arranged a series of long-term contracts at prices agreed before the explosion of oil costs in 1972/73. The benefit of this has been enjoyed partly by the industry, which has recorded record profits in recent years, and partly by the gas consumer, particularly the domestic gas consumer, who has enjoyed gas prices which in real terms are still less than they were a decade ago and as much as 30-50 per cent below competitive oil or electricity prices. The reverse side of the coin has been the loss of potential tax revenue to the state from the even greater profits which would have resulted from raising gas prices in line with oil.

The madness in this reason is that the competitive energy balance would have been

restored over time even without government intervention, since the gas industry is having to pay far higher prices for new gas supplies. As these supplies take over from declining traditional low-cost supplies, so the price of gas would have had to rise at a sharp rate without any intervention.

In one sense, it is an argument primarily about fine tuning. The gas industry would prefer to adopt a slower pace of price increases to preserve more of the benefit to its own customers just as the electricity industry would prefer a slacker financial target to allow it to cope better with the effects of recession on demand. The government prefers a slightly faster pace of adjustment to avoid distortions in the market, to raise its revenue from gas and to protect coal. The difference to the consumer is one of timing rather than degree. But it is also an important question of principle. For a government to intervene in nationalized industry pricing for reasons other than to prevent a misuse of monopoly power is always dangerous. This year's intervention for broader policy reasons is next year's intervention for short-term political reasons, with all that this entails for mounting state losses, poor management morale and low efficiency. In imposing this set of increases, the government is undermining the very policies it should be trying to promote — a greater efficiency and better management by the public sector.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Uncertain victory in rail settlement

From Mr R. J. W. Crabbe
Sir, I have been astonished at the easy acceptance by press and television of Ray Buckton's obviously propaganda cry of "total victory". No account seems to have been taken of the implications of the very precise proposals for a settlement put forward by the McCarthy committee. These, if fully implemented by Aslef, spell "total defeat" for them on the only issue that really matters.

The central point of contention throughout has been British Rail's demand that Aslef should confirm its acceptance of the August requirement for flexible rostering before the 3 per cent is paid. This is the exact procedure laid down in the McCarthy scheme for a settlement.

Specifically, these proposals, as quoted in your issue of today, (February 17), propose, as the first step, that Aslef should confirm its commitment to flexible rostering under the clause of the August agreement which reads:

Variable rostering hours within limits to be negotiated. Negotiations shall take place to establish variations to the rostering agreements with a view to the number of hours worked in the eight-hour day, but without producing unreasonable variation in the length of each working day or week. These discussions shall be concluded by October 31, 1981.

The next step is for Aslef and British Rail to agree a tight timetable for implementing this commitment. Only when these steps are complete is it proposed that British Rail should pay the 3 per cent — and Aslef call off its dogs.

Whatever legalistic ambiguities there may have been in the agreements of last summer, this proposed programme makes it quite clear that the committee believes that Aslef has made a commitment to flexible rostering which Ray Buckton has once again averred that they have no intention of honouring.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. W. CRABBE,
156 Lower Green Road,
Essex,
Surrey.
February 17.

Easing tax burden

From the President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Sir, While we must applaud any easing of the burden of taxation, the suggestion of Sir William Clark and Mr Michael Grylls (February 15) that the Chancellor's immediate priority should be easing the income-tax burden on individuals is not the message we in the North-west are hearing from industry and commerce.

The main demand from our companies is for reduction in industry's costs in the search for National Insurance, in the cost of energy, in local authority rates, and in the prices charged by other public-sector authorities which are not faced with the fierce kind of competition that the private sector has to face. Soaring increases, such as that proposed in the price of gas, particularly concern our companies.

European Court powers

From Mr Michael Fallon
Sir, Mr Bewsher (February 9) surprisingly understates his case, which goes far beyond the Scotch whisky industry. Governments of the member states erect far more barriers than any commercial company, even the largest multinational. To force companies to treat as harmonised markets which governments insist on keeping disparate is not only unjust but positively impedes competition.

The difficulty arises, in part, from the obligation on individuals or companies injured by contravention of Community law by a member state to seek redress in the national courts of that state. Pace Mr Tyrell (February 4) this may involve five or more years' litigation in courts of first instance, courts of appeal

and courts of cassation before the question reaches the Court of Justice which, even then, cannot award damages. Furthermore, national laws and practice on damages differ widely in the member states.

What is required, if justice is to mean justice, is the right for such individuals or companies to sue the appropriate government for damages before the Court of Justice in the search for a right which would be a right for harmonisation far greater than those enjoyed by the Commission and would, moreover, massively improve the popularity of the Community in the eyes of those, like Mr Bewsher, at present suffering from a dual standard of law enforcement.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL FALLON,
51 Penham Road, W14.
February 12.

Lifeboat wireless fees

From Commodore L. J. Thomas
Sir, I wonder if many of your readers are aware of a tax imposed on the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) which, whilst small in terms of revenue for the Government, is a serious drain on the funds of an organization that is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

I refer to the wireless telegraphy fees payable in respect of wireless transmitters/receivers fitted to lifeboats. These fees were increased enormously from January 1, 1981 (from £6.40 to £17.50 a year in the case of an offshore lifeboat). As a result the RNLI must find over £5,000 a year to cover the cost of licences for its lifeboats. Obviously these boats cannot function effectively without wireless communication.

Representations to the Home Office have received the reply that:

(i) They have no power under the Wireless Telegraphy Act to waive licence fees.
(ii) If amending legislation was introduced it would be difficult to refuse similar requests from

other organizations covering search and rescue operations at sea on any scale are HM Coastguard and the Ministry of Defence (Navy and Air) who are not liable to pay wireless telegraphy licence fees. It therefore appears impossible for any amending legislation to be created. The problem of drafting amending legislation should therefore be negligible, should it prove really necessary.

My letter is written on behalf of the members of Chichester Yacht Club, who consider the present situation as most unfair. Their views must be shared by anyone having an interest in safety at sea. We find it hard to understand why the representations already made by the RNLI and the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) to the Home Office over a considerable period should have fallen on such deaf ears.

Yours sincerely,
J. THOMAS,
Chichester Yacht Club,
Chichester Yacht Basin,
Birdham,
Chichester,
Sussex.
February 4.

How shall a child know its parent?

From Dr Alexina McWhinnie

Sir, Recent correspondence, and particularly your leader of February 10, "A matter of origins", has highlighted the parallel between AID and adoption on the question of the child's need to know about its origins. There is indeed a close parallel and, as in the early years of adoption practice, AID practice has really had the point of view of the childless couple or parents in mind rather than that of the child.

In fact much current discussion about the importance of secrecy and confidentiality in AID is reminiscent of what was reported to the various departmental committees on adoption in 1921 and 1925 and the Departmental Committee on Adoption Societies and Agencies in 1937. Since then research into adoption outcome has opened up the whole area of communication within adoptive families, or one could say between children and the adults who "parent" them but who are not their birth parents.

This research showed that adopted people, while indeed wanting factual details about their birth parents, viewed those who brought them up as their real parents, were thoughtfully loyal towards them, not wishing to distress them, yet were themselves distressed when the adult world in which they had been reared had not always been fully honest with them.

It emerged from the research that children in adoptive homes where their origins were made a secret frequently knew or suspected that they were adopted, not because of any direct verbal communication, but through all the non-verbal cues which happen in any family, the stray remark or intonation of a relative, the embarrassment of a parent at a simple question from the child.

The problem about advocating secrecy in AID is that the parents are then caught in a web of a lifetime of deceit, not only with their child but with the network of relatives and friends with whom they will assume a relationship with the child based on kinship. There may well be couples who can live happily with this deceit, but there will be many who will find themselves caught unawares by the everyday comments of relatives and friends about, for example, whether or not the child "takes after" which parent.

What little work has been done with AID families suggests that the shared secret either cements

a marriage further, or breaks it, with the husband being potentially more vulnerable to feelings of "failure" and "exclusion". Openness with the child could be considered not only fair but a right and, if adoption research and practice is anything to go by, the question of sharing such information is much more threatening to the adults involved than to the child.

There is clearly a case for a much more open debate about this whole question and great merit in your assertion that AID children have as much right to knowledge about their origins as have adopted children.

Yours sincerely,
ALEXINA M. MCWHINNIE,
Orchard Hill,
3 Windmill Lane,
Wheatley, Oxford.

From Mr K. Campbell

Sir, Amidst the debate on extracorporeal fertilization and artificial insemination by donor much has been made of the need of a child to know its "genetic origin". It may be salutary to be reminded of the discussion following a study on antibody formation. The participants were Dr. E. Philipp (then consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the Royal Northern Hospital, London) Lord Kilbrandon (then Lord of Appeal in Ordinary) and Sir John Stallworthy (then Nuffield Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Oxford University).

Dr Philipp: "We blood-tested some patients in a town in south-east England and found that 30 per cent of the husbands could not have been the fathers of their children."

Sir John Stallworthy: "What was the extent of that group?"
Dr Philipp: "Not large — between 200 and 300 — but large enough to give us a large shock."

Lord Kilbrandon: "Mr Philipp surely the figure of 30 per cent is a minimum? What you established was that 30 per cent could not be the children of their mother's husbands, not that 70 per cent of them were?"
Dr Philipp: "Yes, it is a minimum."

It is indeed a wise child who knows his own father.
Yours faithfully,
K. CAMPBELL,
Haematology Department,
Bucklands Hospital,
Coombe Valley Road,
Dover, Kent.
February 12.

Fall of Singapore

From Mr Correlli Barnett

Sir, Anthony Kemp (feature, February 15) is completely in error when he states in his article on Singapore that "We built our Maginot Line in Singapore to defend ourselves against a Japanese Fleet and refused to believe in the possibility of a landborne invasion".

The Chiefs of Staff Committee's "Far East appreciation" of May, 1937, gave as a possible Japanese option "to land army forces in the Malay Peninsula to advance on Singapore. The Japanese may hope by the combined effect of attrition, air and land attack to force our garrison to surrender before our fleet can arrive to relieve it".

The COS then considered it possible that the Japanese would land in Siamese territory at Chumporn and Singora and move by land to seize the airfields at Victoria Point and Alor Star. This is broadly what the Japanese did in December, 1941. The COS in 1937 then suggested "advance through Malaya towards Singapore; close investment of Singapore Island, and command of naval base by artillery fire". They reckoned that if the Japanese could count on 70 days' delay before the arrival of a British Fleet, and if they "can establish themselves on the mainland, deliberate operations hold for them the possibility of capturing the fortress". In fact they took Singapore in just under the 70 days.

Moreover, by 1940 it had become the established British strategy to found the defence of Singapore in defence of the Malayan Peninsula, and in particular the northern airfields. That was the plan which was put into operation when the Japanese struck on December 8, 1941. The question of Singapore's ability to

withstand a close siege from the landward side only arose from the defence of Malaya because of shortcomings in equipment and training.

Thus the peculiarly enduring myth that no one had thought of the Japanese attacking Singapore via the backdoor is quite fallacious. Why one wonders, is it repeated endlessly?

Yours faithfully,
CORRELLI BARNETT,
University of Cambridge History Faculty,
West Road,
Cambridge.
February 15.

From Mr G. N. Burton

Sir, I was captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore and am glad to have survived to challenge the assertions made by Anthony Kemp today (February 15) about the present feelings of former prisoners of war. Though physically beaten by some of them, I do not hate the Japanese, nor do I feel "an understandable sense of bitterness and frustration". Possibly POWs in Germany were generally more fortunate in the ways their captors treated them, but I see no point in such jealous and invidious comparisons.

On the contrary, I am sure many POWs are grateful for a range of experience which showed us human nature, on both sides at its worst, and at its most sublime. For one thing, "the bitter end" is much less bitter than your article suggests, and, touch wood, my Datsun is running very well!

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY N. BURTON,
Hill View,
The Lane,
Compton Martin,
Bristol.
February 15.

Ethnic schooling

From Councillor Peter Croft

Sir, Councillor Benn's letter to you (February 12) contains various minor errors that weaken his case, and one major one that destroys it. As one of the two councillors primarily responsible for ensuring the sale of an Ealing High School to the Church of England, I am in a reasonable position to point these out.

The opposition, up far from being "considerable", consisted of a few dozen vociferous ideologues. The "local community" was uninterested or in favour. The Church of England opposition consisted of a tiny minority of one incumbent who has since declared his intention of resigning orders to stand for Parliament in the Labour interest. Choice is most certainly extended in that the school is far more sharply differentiated from other Ealing schools than it was before. And so one could proceed: there is hardly a sentence in Councillor Benn's letter that bears any relationship to reality.

The major flaw in his argument, however, is the amazing assertion that the purpose of education is to break down barriers of class, race, and so on. The purpose of education is to provide people with the skills and knowledge that they need for the best possible adult life. In demonstrating his ignorance of this simple fact, Councillor Benn demonstrates the frightful danger of putting his party in

charge of any educational system, in Ealing or elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CROFT,
Members' Room,
Town Hall, Ealing, W5.

Legal precedence

From the Reverend John Pollock

Sir, The Master of the Rolls recently broke a record. My great-grandfather, Lord Chief Baron Pollock, was the oldest common law judge ever to sit on the Bench when he retired in 1885 at the age of 82 years and nine months. Lord Denning has already exceeded him by three months; long may he continue.

The similarities between these eminent lawyers a century apart are interesting. Pollock's father was a saddler. Lord Denning's a draper. Both had two distinguished brothers: a field marshal and a chief justice (Pollock); a general and an admiral (Denning). Before being called to the bar, both were mathematicians. Best of all, as I see it, Lord Denning has for many years been president of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship which (as the Lawyers' Prayer Union) was founded, with others, by the Chief Baron and his son, afterwards Baron Pollock, my grandfather.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POLLOCK,
Rose Ash House,
South Molton, Devonshire.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 18: His Excellency, Mr Samuel Akpa Mpuhane was received in audience by the Queen and presented the letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner from the Republic of Botswana in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following Members of the High Commission, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Mr T. M. B. Ditseng (Counsellor) and Mr D. Rendoh (First Secretary).

Sir Edward Youle had the honour of being received by the Queen. Mr Derek Day (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by the Queen, and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The following had the honour of being invited: His Excellency Mr Olafur Johannesson (Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Mrs Johannesson, His Excellency the Icelandic Ambassador and Mrs Bjarnason, the Lord of the Isles and Mrs Atkins, Mr Lindsay Anderson, Professor and Mrs John Bayley, Mr and Mrs Ian Beer and Mr and Mrs Magnus Messon.

Her Majesty invested the President of the Republic of Iceland with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the World Wildlife Fund, left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight to visit Australia, Egypt, India, Oman, Pakistan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Tunisia.

Major John Cargill is in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 18: Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Henderson today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C. A. Annet
and Miss S. C. Spencer
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Paul Bennett, of The Town, South Africa, and Candy, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel E. L. Spencer and Mrs Spencer, of Lewes, Sussex.

Mr N. S. Balcombe
and Miss C. Lipton
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Simon, son of Mr Fred Balcombe and the late Mrs Clarice Balcombe, stepson of Mrs Rhonda Balcombe, and Carolyn, daughter of Mr Gerald Lipton and Mrs Shirley Lipton.

Mr J. G. Colman-Rogers
and Miss S. L. Whately
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, eldest son of the late Mr David Colman-Rogers, of Stange Park, Radnorshire, and Mrs Alistair Lyell, of Fellingham, and Sophia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Whately, of Dorset.

Mr D. R. Costley-White
and Mrs M. A. Jakubski
The engagement is announced between David Richard, son of the late Cyril Costley-White, CMG, and of Mrs Elizabeth Costley-White, of Somerset, and Charlotte, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Way, of Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Dr J. F. Dreyer
and Miss S. C. Prebble
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Frederick Dreyer of 1022F Woodson Road, Baltimore, MD 21212, United States, and Miss S. C. Prebble, daughter of Mr and Mrs Cecil Prebble of Ashburton, New Zealand.

Mr E. K. Frater
and Miss M. S. O'Neill
The engagement is announced between Kevin, only son of the late Mr and Mrs E. J. Frater, of Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, and Marie, only daughter of the late Mr W. J. O'Neill and Mrs Mai O'Neill, of Cappoquin, Co. Tipperary, and Putney, London.

Mr D. T. Frank
and Miss L. L. Abbott
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs T. Frank, of Shrewsbury, and Diane, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs S. N. Abbott, of Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N. H. A. Goodman
and Miss S. L. Millett
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Goodman, of London, and Marcia Goodman, daughter of Mr and Mrs Janet Millett, of Mill Hill.

Mr H. A. Lorie
and Miss H. K. Knorpe
The engagement is announced between Hilary Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs Clem Lorie, of 43, Montreal Avenue, Leeds, and Helen Rowena, daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Knorpe, of 32 Sunnybank, Epsom, Surrey.

Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Own Hussars, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

YORK HOUSE
February 18: The Duke of Kent this evening attended the Electronic Components Industry Federation dinner at the Savoy Hotel.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
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THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 18: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present at the evening of the British premiere of the film "Priest of Love", given in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund for the Carol Hassell Appeal, at the Dean Theatre, Kensington.

Princess Andrew is 22 today.

The Duke of Gloucester will attend the Ambassadorial Ball Soiree Française in aid of UNA/UNICEF at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, on February 22.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will be admitted as Honorary Freeman of the City of London on 22nd February. The Duke of Gloucester is Colonel-in-Chief, the Gloucestershire Regiment, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, will review his regiment on April 24.

A service of thanksgiving for the late Lord and Lady Mervyn Dymally will be held on Thursday, March 11, 1982, at St Clement Danes, Strand, London, WC2, at noon.

Mr C. D. Lyndon Skeggs
and Miss M. L. Fildes
The engagement is announced between Douglas, younger son of Mr and Mrs P. Lyndon Skeggs, of Drayton, London, and Diane, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. D. Lyndon Skeggs, of near Basingstoke, Hampshire, and Imogen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M. O. Fildes, of Lushington, near Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Mr R. N. C. Morris
and Miss J. E. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs R. N. C. Morris, of Radlett, Hertfordshire, and Jillian, elder daughter of Mr R. N. C. Morris, of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and Mrs J. C. Todd, of Palm Desert, California, United States.

Major G. C. Rush
and Mrs P. J. Calnan
The engagement is announced between George Campton Rush, of Farley Hill, Berkshire, husband of the late Eileen Rush, and Patricia Joy Calnan, of Reading, wife of the late Denis John Calnan, RN.

Mr T. L. Soames
and Miss D. J. Turner
The engagement is announced between Trevor Irwin, son of Mr Leonard Soames and Mrs Sally Soames, of London, and Diane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. E. Turner, of Burton Leonard, North Yorkshire.

Mr S. F. Staruch
and Miss S. P. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Stanislaw Franciszek Staruch, of Warsaw, Poland, and Barbara Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vivian Taylor, of Coed-y-Mystwr, Bridgend, South Wales.

Mr R. J. Stead
and Miss M. G. Gent
The engagement is announced between Richard James, younger son of Mr and Mrs W. B. Stead, of 112 Cambridge Street, SW1, and Miss M. G. Gent, of 15 South Terrace, SW7.

Mr K. F. Unwin
and Miss J. P. Arnold
The engagement is announced between Kieron, younger son of Mr and Mrs K. F. Unwin, of Hereby, Kent, and Janet Fiona Pittman, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. H. Arnold, of Westfield, Hawkhurst, Kent.

Mr G. Nevill
and Lady Beatrice Lambton
The marriage took place quietly yesterday in London between Mr Guy Nevill, elder son of Lord and Lady Rupert Nevill, and Lady Beatrice Lambton, daughter of Lord and Lady Lambton.

Mr R. J. Adams and Miss D. C. Street
A service of blessing took place yesterday at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, following the marriage of Mr Robert Adams to Miss Clare Street. A reception was held afterwards at the Royal Opera House.

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A portrait by Juliet Pannett of Sir William Gladstone, Chief Scout, who retires next Wednesday, when the painting, commissioned by the Scouts Association, will be unveiled at the association's headquarters in Queen's Gate, west London.

Sotheby's Belgravia to close

By Frances Gibb

High interest rates and inflation have forced Sotheby's, the auctioneers, to streamline their entire United Kingdom operation, which involves the closure of their Belgravia saleroom, the thinning down of salerooms in Torquay and Chester and redundancies in most branches.

Mr Graham Llewellyn, chief executive, said yesterday that although the art market was not in as bad a state as some reports indicated, it was "not in the finest state ever". Sales were down.

Some 60 staff at Sotheby's Belgravia saleroom, which was set up in 1971 to promote the Victorian collecting market, were told on Friday that most of their departments would merge with existing departments at the main saleroom in Bond Street.

That move, planned for some time, has been precipitated by Sotheby's purchase of part of the Steinway building adjacent to the Bond Street premises. Mr Llewellyn said all the specialist

collectors' sales would continue. Staff at Belgravia had naturally built up an esprit de corps there and "it is not funny to lose colleagues and friends", he said. "But we believe it is a very positive step which will have great benefits, bringing everything to one place."

There would inevitably be some redundancies, which would largely be dealt with by natural wastage. Since the streamlining started last September some 70 of the 1,000 United Kingdom staff had taken voluntary redundancy. He would not say what the target figure was.

At Torquay, 10 people are to be made redundant. At Chester 36 people are to go. Mr Llewellyn said that service would be maintained in both places.

Sotheby's in New York recently shed about 200 staff through voluntary redundancy. Last July it announced a turnover in their London saleroom of £93,204,000 and in the

rest of the United Kingdom salerooms £9,630,000. For the first time last year Sotheby's declined to release their end-of-the-year figures. Mr Llewellyn said yesterday that the firm had simply decided they were not representative of the season's trading and would no longer be disclosing them. He agreed that the art market was suffering in some sections, such as jewelry, which last year contributed £46m to the group's turnover. Vendors were not willing to put top quality stones on the market when they once fetched £80,000 a carat and now made £40,000-£50,000 a carat, he said.

Sotheby's yesterday launched an international poetry competition with prizes worth £21,000, of which £15,000 plus 12 bottles of claret selected by the Master of White at Sotheby's. The next four winners take £4,000, £3,000, £2,000 and £1,000 and several bottles of claret, all the other winners receive two bottles.

Birthdays today



Mr John Freeman, chairman of London Weekend Television, who is 67.

The Rev Dr G. Henton Davies, 76; Lord Forster, 64; Lord Henniker, 66; Right Rev R. S. Hoek, 66; Mr Lee Maravin, 58; Professor Bernard Meadows, 67; Sir John N. Nicholson, 71; Sir Daniel Pettit, 67; Mr Erin Pizzey, 43; Mr Brian Tesler, 53.

Arthur Bliss award
The Performing Right Society is to inaugurate an annual scholarship in memory of the late Sir Arthur Bliss, the composer, who was president of the society from 1954 to 1975.

Nineteen eighty-two, as you know, is the Year of Charles Darwin, and almost every conceivable celebration has been planned except an appearance by Charles Darwin on the Michael Parkinson Show. Today we put that right, with these exclusive transcripts.

Parkinson: My guest this evening is someone who has done more to change the history of mankind than anyone who has ever been on this show. I spent most of my youth in Barnesley Public Library poring over his works, and it has always been my greatest ambition to meet him and ask him what he meant. Ladies and gentlemen

Charles Darwin! (Stupendous ovation. Darwin comes down the grand staircase and sits in the right chair.)

Parkinson: Super. Now, Charles, in a moment I'll be asking you to play a piano duet with Yehudi Menuhin or perhaps go a few steps with Lionel Blair, but first let me ask you about the book you've got out this month.

Darwin: It's called *The Origin of The Species* and it's out in paperback this month.

Parkinson: Magic. You've

BBC urges wavelength changes by 1986

By a Staff Reporter

The BBC wants The Home Office to agree to clear the emergency services from the VHF broadcasting range by 1986 so that five sectors will be available for radio, providing separate services for the police, fire and ambulance, and 4 and educational programmes, as well as two bands for local radio, BBC and commercial.

Police and fire services, nationalised industries and other public utilities use the frequencies and it is said that the change because of the high cost of re-equipping. But the BBC engineers believe the cost may not be high because much of the equipment will become obsolete in any case during the present decade.

International agreement to clear the whole VHF band between 88 and 108 MHz for broadcasting reached at the World Administrative Radio

Latest wills

Professor Robert Treflford McKenzie, of Kensington, London, and Haugh Island, Shepperton, Surrey, the political economist, and Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics, left estate in England and Wales valued at £255 net. After some personal bequests he left his books and pamphlets to the British Library of Political and Economic Sci-

ence at the London School of Economics, and the residue for charitable purposes in England.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Brookshaw, Mr Stanley James, of Market Drayton, Shropshire, intestate, £27,047; Curtis, Mr George Henry John, of Clifton, Bristol, intestate, £229,858; Lewis, Mr John Whitney, of Bedfordshire, £28,620.

Parkinson: Could you very briefly sum up the theory of the book for those in the audience who may not have had a chance to read it yet?

Darwin: Certainly. Mr Parkinson. I am trying to say that the available evidence tends to suggest that the natural world is governed by a set of laws which favour species which adapt to their environment, or in other words...

Parkinson: Or in other words, the Book of Genesis is as dead as mutton?

Darwin: Yes, I suppose you could.

Parkinson: Amazing. I don't think I'm betraying any secrets if I say that you also featured on our new postage stamps, together with what looks like two glove puppets.

Darwin: Yes. This was an idea of my publisher, who has arranged a television children's series for me, in which with the help of Tommy the Turtle and Tristan the Tortoise I try to explain why one of them is doomed to extinction before the series ends.

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Moreover... Miles Kington

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Delay in authors' payments

By Kenneth Gosling

Authors expecting to receive their first payments under the Government's public lending right scheme in 1982-83 will be disappointed. Administrative and technical delays make it unlikely that the first royalties will be paid until early the next financial year, 1983-84.

The Writers' Guild of Great Britain said yesterday: "Every day's delay prolongs the injustice of running the largest public library system in the western world without paying the authors of the books it lends."

A revised draft scheme is expected to be debated and, authors' organizations hope, approved by Parliament early next month. While far from ideal, the guild says, the scheme does represent authors' sole prospect of exercising the right Parliament voted them three years ago.

The Public Lending Right (PLR) Act was passed with all-party support in March, 1979, and established a £2m fund from which authors will be paid annually in proportion to the loans from public libraries, as shown by a loan sample.

A registrar has been appointed and it is still hoped that the registration of authors will start next year.

Reception

Apostolic Pro-Nuncio designate
The Apostolic Pro-Nuncio designate, the Apostolic Nuncio last night to mark the investiture of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, OM, as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Gregory the Great. The Bishops' Society was awarded the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice".

Dinners

Butchers' Company
Mr Murray and Lady Fox were the guests of honour at the annual ladies' dinner of the Butchers' Company held at Butchers' Hall last night. The guests included Mrs Norman, Mrs Murray, Mr L. V. G. Dennis, Mr J. K. Curran and the Master of the Butchers' Company. Among other guests were the High Commissioner for New Zealand, the Master of the Saddlers' Company and Mr W. F. G. Milne and his ladies.

The Corporation of London gave a dinner at Mansion House last night in honour of the President of Iceland, Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriff and their escorts, received the guests. Among those present were Mr and Mrs Olafur Johannesson, the Icelandic Ambassador, and Mr and Mrs John Curran, the Master of the Butchers' Company.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Late rally in gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Feb 15. Dealings End Feb 26. \$ Contango Day, Mar 1. Settlement Day, Mar 8

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

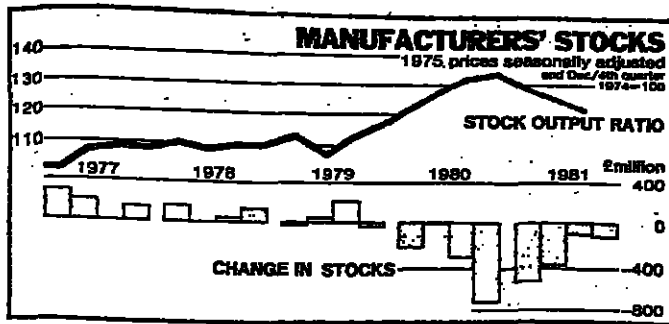
BELL'S
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BUSINESS NEWS

Destocking slows



Manufacturing industry cut back its total stocks more in the fourth quarter of last year than in the late summer, but the figures suggest that the worst of destocking is over. There was an increase in stocks in progress but a drop in raw materials and fuel held. Finished stocks also went down. The ratio between finished stocks and total output has now returned to more normal levels after the worst of the recession.

Insider dealing alleged

The Department of Trade is prosecuting an employee of merchant bankers Hill Samuel and her husband under the insider dealing sections of the 1980 Companies Act. Mrs Joyce Titheridge, of Sidcup, Kent, is alleged to have procured her husband, Mr John William Titheridge, to deal in the shares of Joseph Stocks & Sons. Mr Titheridge is charged with dealing in the shares of stocks and procuring another to deal in the securities. This is the first insider dealings case in England and the second in Britain.

Building society inquiry

The Blyth & Morpeth District Permanent Benefit Building Society which has one office in Blyth Northumberland is being investigated by the Registrar of Friendly Societies over discrepancies in its annual accounts. Mr Ron Devlin, the assistant registrar, said yesterday, "Steps have been taken to secure the safety of investors." The Northern Rock building society is managing affairs of the £1.5m Blyth & Morpeth while its future is decided. The amount in question is thought to be small about £16,000. The society's reserves are £130,000.

SE rule book hearing delayed

The Office of Fair Trading has asked for a further six-month extension to prepare its answer to the Stock Exchange's defence of its rule book. The exchange is being taken to the Restrictive Practices Court because its rules that jobbers may act only as principals and brokers as agents are alleged to represent a restrictive practice.

Morecambe gas

Plans for the development of British Gas Morecambe Bay field, 25 miles off the Lancashire coast, were approved yesterday by the Department of Energy. The £1,000m development will involve about six production platforms and a mobile jack-up drilling rig which will drill the first "slanted" wells in United Kingdom waters.

Nissan delays decision on UK car plant

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Nissan of Japan will probably not now make a decision about its proposed United Kingdom car manufacturing plant until the late spring. This further display of indecision by the Japanese company, which makes Datsun cars, came as a health level team of executives led by Mr Masataka Okuma, Nissan's executive vice president, discussed the project with Department of Industry officials in Whitehall yesterday.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, was involved in the talks which centred on the amount of Government aid that might be available for the new operation and on the level of local content of Nissan's British-made cars.

Mr Okuma's team was told that while the Government welcomed the Nissan project, it would not be accepted by ministers at any price. Nissan originally spoke of a United Kingdom investment of about £300m, but this has since been revised substantially after a reappraisal of model plans. The company is now believed to be considering building more than one model at its British factory, with a consequent increase in engine output.

Regional development grants and selective financial assistance could cover up to half of the proposed investment but, in return, the Government is seeking firm commitments from the Japanese on the level and definition of locally-made parts and components to be used in the cars.

Mr Jenkin and his colleagues have faced pressure

'Mass hysteria' at Amersham issue

By Our Financial Staff

New issue time in the City saw the nation's most optimistic investors scramble to meet yesterday's deadline for shares in the latest high technology offering from the Government: Amersham International.

Amersham makes radioactive isotopes for medicine and industry. But the fact that they probably could not understand that part of the prospectus did not stop an estimated 200,000 subscribers from proffering over £1,000m for just 50 million shares at 142p each.

A hardened merchant banker despairingly dismissed the stampede as "mass hysteria".

In the wake of British Aerospace (3½ times oversubscribed), Cable & Wireless (5½ times oversubscribed), and the private sector money broker Exco (75 times oversubscribed), the Amersham rush of 20 times is barely surprising.

But it has raised the same questions — particularly sensitive in the case of political sale — about whether this is the best way to go public.

It is argued by merchant banks and stock brokers that stags have made little or no profit from recent heavily oversubscribed issues.

An investor who is allocated only 5 per cent of the shares for which he has

applied, and may have to wait up to a week for the share or be quoted, incurs heavy interest charges in the meantime.

The alternative of inviting investors to tender for shares in considered less preferable — if more decorous — on two grounds.

Fewer small investors are likely to apply or succeed, and it has never tried for so large an offering as Amersham's £65m. The lukewarm response to Habitat's £9.5m tender offer is cited in evidence.

But it is also admitted that the Government might gain more from a tender. Amersham is expected to net the Government £61m.

A public offering must be pitched a little below the expected trading price to attract subscriptions. This is of more obvious benefit to banks, stockbrokers, and jobbers than to the taxpayer from whom the Government is lifting an alleged burden.

One of the side effects of the huge over-subscription for Amersham was to create an enormous shortage of liquidity in the banking sector. The Bank of England put the total shortage on the day at £1,050m, of which about £800m was Amersham cheques that have gone through the town clearing system.

Business Editor, page 17

Backing for 2½ year wage freeze

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 18

Union leaders at the Ford Motor Company in Chicago today approved a wage and benefit agreement under which employees would accept a 2½ year wage freeze in return for job security.

Local leaders of the United Auto Workers voted 132 to 12 in favour of the deal. The next step to final ratification is a ballot of 150,000 union members to be completed by February 28.

The deal, which both the union and company negotiators called historic, aims to help Ford out of its financial plight after a three year sales slump.

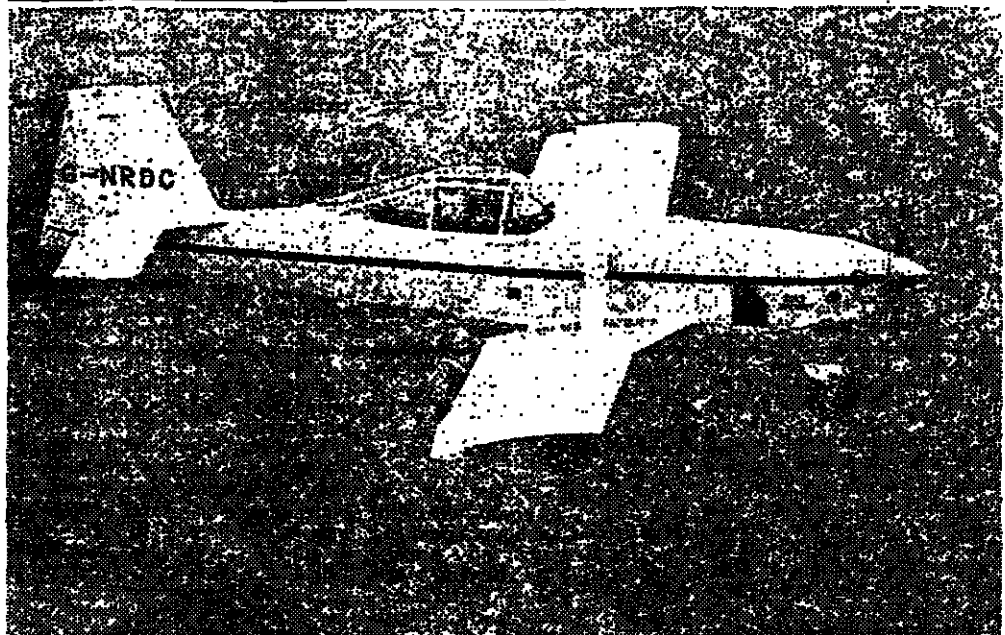
Some workers claim that too much has been given away in return for vague guarantees on job security. But with a third of the company's 106,000 production workers laid off, there are few signs of militancy.

The proposed agreement would eliminate the annual 3 per cent salary increase and reduce holidays. For nine months it would also freeze arrangements for automatic pay adjustments based on increases in the consumer price index.

The unions apparently felt that the company's position was so weak that substantial concessions were inevitable. The company has made cumulative losses of \$2,500m (£1,358m) in the past two years. The new two-year deal is due to begin in September. The United Auto Workers faces a similar crisis at General Motors.

TELECOM 'AHEAD OF MERCURY'

British Telecom intends to have its new high-speed inter-city telecommunications links in operation at least six months before the Mercury consortium completes its planned 800 mile fibre optic cable network. The Telecom plan is based on one which has been employed in London for a year, called the London Overlay Network which has about 25 subscribers. The first link outside the capital will be with Birmingham in June. The Mercury is expected to revise its plans and possibly bring its schedule forward.



Chocks away for the Fieldmaster

A new British aircraft, the NDN Fieldmaster, was unveiled at Farnborough yesterday. It is the Western world's largest and most efficient agricultural aircraft, and the first plane to be designed in Britain for crop-spraying since the 1950s. The Fieldmaster has been developed by NDN Aircraft, the Isle of Wight

company founded by Mr Desmond Norrish with financial support from the British Technology Group. Mr Norrish is now seeking funds from the Government and private investors to start production of the Fieldmaster. Several potential sites are being considered, in Britain and overseas.

US to proceed with steel pricing cases

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 18

The United States International Trade Commission voted today to go ahead with 38 of 92 unfair pricing cases filed against European steel-makers in nine countries. Six of the cases are against Britain.

In preliminary ruling, which represents a big setback to European steel companies, the ITC ruled there is enough evidence of injury to continue 38 of the investigations but not in 54 additional complaints filed by United States companies.

The continued cases cover altogether about two thirds of the total steel import volume flowing into the United States from European countries.

Mr Bill Airlberger, chairman of the ITC, said it is significant that the commission agreed to go ahead with a greater number of cases than it did in May 1980, when only 29 cases were continued.

Mr Airlberger said the ruling meant the commission believes there are enough signs of injury to United States producers to "warrant further investigation". The ruling should by no means be read as a signal that the ITC intends to make a final

Money supply up 1.7 pc

By Our Economics Staff

The rundown of stocks, the biggest cause of recession over the past two years, almost came to an end in the fourth quarter of last year. At the same time, industry invested more in the fourth time it had boosted investment for nearly two years.

The figures show that industry continued to run down its stocks late last year but that retailers, either by design or because they ordered, increased their stocks substantially.

At the same time as these figures pointing to an end to stock induced recession were being published by the Government, the Bank of England issued new figures showing that bank lending stayed high in January, pushing up the money supply by 1.7 per cent because of bank lending of £1680m.

The January rise in sterling M3 means that the aggregate has grown at an annualized rate of 15½ per cent since late February, the base month for the present target period.

Although this means that the Government is going to finish its financial year to April with sterling M3 growth well above its original 6-10 per cent target, it is probably hoping for appreciably better figures for the banking month to mid February. These figures should be helped by heavy flows of deferred tax payments to the Exchequer in the first half of the banking month.

M1, the narrow measure of money, rose by 1.8 per cent in January, an annualized rate of growth of 10 per cent since late February. PS12, the broad measure of private sector liquidity, expanded by 1.1 per cent giving an annualized rate growing over the last 11 months of 12½ per cent.

There was a sharp fall of £920m in the United Kingdom residents' holdings of foreign currency deposits. Much of this probably reflected the conversion of these holdings into sterling to meet tax payments.

European ships at risk

North European shipping fleets will be reduced still further as owners succumb to government demands for low cost companies in the Far East.

High manning costs have become crucial for shipowners. For some merchant ships, especially bulk carriers, crewing costs are now three times higher than for similar ships operated by companies in the Far East and India.

A report published yesterday by H. P. Drewry, the shipping consultants, said: "As the current shipping

recession deepens during 1982 more and more North European shipping companies will be unable to compete under their own flag with their own nationals as crew."

High crew costs, tax and administrative costs have led to ships operating under some European flags to become as expensive as American-operated vessels.

European bulk carrier operators are attempting to reduce costs either by reducing crew levels or by "reflagging" — transferring registry of their vessels to countries with lower costs.

Clearers to pay £300,000 levy

Protection for bank deposits

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A fund to protect depositors in the event of a banking crash is to be set up. Mr Joel Bruce Gargueta, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said in reply to a written parliamentary question yesterday that the Deposit Protection Scheme will come into force from today.

The scheme, which has met strong opposition in the past from the banks, was written into the 1979 Banking Act but implementation was delayed until the Bank of England had finished licensing banks and deposit-taking institutions as required under the Banking Act.

The fund of between £5m and £6m will protect depositors on up to 75 per cent of the first £10,000 placed with either recognised banks or licensed deposit-taking institutions.

The limit has been set to encourage individuals to be prudent in where they put their money. Sums above £10,000 will not be covered by the scheme.

The big banks objected to the scheme initially because they felt they would be paying for the shortcomings of smaller banks. They also complained because of the building societies, which now have a bigger share of personal sector deposits that the banks are not covered by the Banking Act so do not have to contribute to the fund.

However the building societies told the Government last summer that they would bail out any member society which ran into trouble.

The Trans-Oceanic Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Thursday, 18th February, 1982 at 10.30 am.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31st October, 1981.

	1981	1980
Total Revenue	£1,799,118	£1,730,081
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£ 990,376	£ 940,407
Earnings per Ordinary Share	2.58p	2.55p
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	2.50p	2.33p
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	111.3p	99.7p

In his Statement in the Annual Report the Chairman commented:

The last financial year has been relatively successful for your Company as it has benefited from the changes made to its portfolio in 1980. The move, at the time, of a substantial proportion of the Company's assets from the U.K. to overseas stock markets with particular emphasis on the U.S.A. has resulted in an appreciation in value which might not otherwise have taken place given the poor performance of the London stock market. The major cause of this appreciation has been the weakness of Sterling. Overseas stock markets in the main have produced a lacture performance similar to that of the London market. It is also pleasing to note that the Trust's income increased over the year despite some U.K. companies cutting their dividends. This increase is attributable to the high interest rates earned on the Company's uninvested cash. As a significant proportion of this cash was held in the U.S.A. in Dollars, the Company not only benefited from the high interest rates available there, but also the appreciation of the Dollar against Sterling. In addition, income received as commission from underwriting share issues was at a high level. The outcome has been that the Directors of your Company have been able to recommend a dividend increase in spite of the difficult economic conditions experienced in 1981 and the loss of franked income to the Company by the increased emphasis on overseas investment.

The proportion of the Company's assets now invested in the U.S.A. exceeds 45%, while in the U.K. this figure has fallen to approximately 36%, including uninvested cash. This further change in geographical emphasis has come about almost entirely from the movement in value of the portfolios and the currencies in which they are expressed. Movements of the Company's assets between countries during the year have not been of major significance, but small investments have been made in Mexico and Singapore. Since the Company's year-end some disinvestment has been made in the U.S.A. with the assets being re-employed in Japan and the Far East.

In today's environment it is notable that share prices, interest rates and currencies are highly volatile. While this environment makes it more difficult to obtain a stable investment performance, it also offers considerable opportunities if firm action is taken at the right time. It is your Directors' continuing intention to make the best use of these opportunities wherever possible, although this may require a need to make significant changes to the Company's assets from time to time.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries.
J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 120 Cheapside, London, EC2V 8DS.

MARKET SUMMARY

Late dash for Amersham

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.2, up 1.4.
FT Gilt 65.55, up 0.21.
FT All-Share 325.09, up 0.12.
Bargains 17,986.

There was standing room only in the stock exchange yesterday as investors made a last-minute dash to lodge their applications for shares in Amersham International.

Pundits estimated that the offer for £65m worth of shares would be oversubscribed 20 times with an estimated £1,300m offered by investors.

As a result business in the remainder of the equity market remained low key with prices drifting on lack of interest. A rally on Wall Street early on provided some comfort with the FT index closing 1.4 down at 562.2, after being 3.3 down at 5pm.

Heavy selling of several blue chips did little to help matters. Stone Circle 14p to 50p. Brokers Scrimgeour Kemp Gee are recommending investors to sell and have downgraded prices by about £5m after the devaluation of the Chilean peso. Profits from Chile last year were about £17m.

Turner & Newall, down 8p at 99p, was another weak market as favourite Booker McConnell rose 2p to 73p amid high turnover. A put-through was completed in 1.3m shares with another buyer picking up 1.5m later in the day.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Average 7,683.76 up 39.7.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,257.94 up 24.48.

CURRENCIES

● Lower Eurodollar deposit rates, an easier Fed Funds rate and unbounded rumours that President Reagan was planning defence cuts weakened the dollar.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING
£1,852.00 up 165 points
Index 91.7 unchanged
DM 4.3850
Fr.F. 11.1500
Yen 435.50
DOLLAR
Index 112.7 down 0.13
DM 2.3787 down 2.15 pts
30LD
£369.75 down \$3.25

TODAY

300s domestic product, 4th quarter prelim.
Company results: Half-yearly
J&F and Co, Television, Thompson Secured Growth. Finals
— Kennedy Brooks, Lloyds Bank, F. Miller (Textile), Phoenix Mining and Finance, Scottish Jointed Investors, Teco, Walthams.

COMMODITIES

● The afternoon tin market featured heavy borrowing of cash metal for one day at the £120 limit premium set by the LME committee, on short positions maturing, largely as a result of heavy forward selling to the market's main buyer during late November.

One party in particular was involved in about half the 2,000 tonnes borrowed, which return was lent by the operator responsible for boosting prices by over £2,000 since last July.

Three months metal fluctuated narrowly to finish £10 higher at £7,880.

The morning market saw the backwardation for cash to three months metal narrowing slightly to £95. Cash metal traded from £8,930 down to £8,850 in the rings while three months fell to £7,850 under before short covering reversed the trend to £7,890 on the kerb.

MONEY MARKETS

The Bank provided a near-record £1,144m assistance, including £388m lent direct to the discount houses at 14 per cent and Amersham pay-over accounted for £800m of the estimated £1,050m shortage.

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 14½-14%
3-month currency rates
3-month dollar 16-16½
3-month DM 10½-10¾
3 months Fr.F. 16½-16¾

BUSINESS NEWS / FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Richardson: a billion pound man

I say in the confidence of offending nearly everyone that one man stands behind the staggering way more than £1,000m has been put down on Amersham International. This is the highest of high technology new issues in radio chemistry, with the ultimate in investment accolades — it is unique. The man is Michael Richardson 56, of Rothchilds, recruited from the bluest of blue blooded stockbrokers, Cazenove. As it happens Cazenove are brokers to this lucrative issue. Modestly Richardson denies that the offer for sale (which ensures that the public as well as a few institutions end up owning Amersham) was ideal or even peculiarly his idea. But his success does highlight the way Rothchild, Morgan Grenfell and Warburg have come to the top of the new issue heap virtually together. Coincidentally or not, they all recruited top stock brokers to beef up this side of their business. There is Richardson at Rothchilds, Bill Mackworth-Young (formerly of Rowe and Pitman) at Morgan Grenfell, and Simon Garnsworthy, who used to be at Scrimgeour helps out at Warburg. Other merchant banks with a taste for new issue business please note.



"Of course he's overweight, poor mite. It's all that nasty lead he gets out of the petrol"

Where was Heron Corporation's chief executive Gerald Ronson when news of his bigger offer for ACC was announced yesterday? He was not behind his desk but amid a bevy of balloons and go-go dancers at the Mayfair Theatre. There Heron's American business partners the video game manufacturer Atari was announcing its 1982 plans for this country.

Sy Grann is no lounge lizard

A small factory estate on the outskirts of Harlow has become the centre of the fashion-conscious shoe trade. For Sy Grann, who is managing director of ROBA UK, a fast-growing international freight forwarding company, has discovered a source for lizard skins. Not just ordinary skins, but the rare teju lizard skins. When Mr Grann recently found a source for baby crocodile skins, his customer was so pleased he gave him a pair of hand-made baby crocodile skin shoes which cost around £320 a pair.

The Stock Exchange is chuckling over the story of the man who wrote to a newspaper "I suffer from dry eyes (inability to shed tears). What do you recommend?" Reply: "See your doctor. If no success, see your Tax Inspector".

Computers for tout le monde

If you cannot beat them, join them. That appears to be the conclusion drawn by France's Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber to the problem of computers increasingly taking over jobs presently carried out by human beings. His World Centre for Micro-computers and Human Resources is due to open shortly in Paris. The centre will develop a small easy-to-use micro-computer, expected to sell at between £40 and £80, and examine how ordinary people can be taught to use it. Servan-Schreiber is best known abroad for the book he brought out in the 1960's on American multinationalism in Europe "The American Challenge".

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr S. J. Ford has been appointed managing director of The British Aluminium Company. He succeeds Mr L. S. F. Charles, who retired but remains on the board as a non-executive director. Mr John Robertshaw chairman of United Scientific Holdings, has been appointed director of The Technology and Innovation Exchange (TIE) and chairman of its financial panel. Sir John Priddy has been appointed to the board of Dow Scandia Banking Corporation.

Letting another watchdog loose on state industries



The controller, Mr Gordon Downey, (left) cannot get access to nationalised industry accounts. Mr Joel Barnett thinks it vital he is given more power.

The clash between ministers and nearly 300 MPs over greater parliamentary scrutiny of how nationalised industries spend the taxpayers' money is likely to be resolved in Cabinet committee within the next two weeks. The issue of whether or not the Comptroller and Auditor General should examine nationalised industry accounts has caused a good deal of heat between backbenchers and ministers and is regarded on both sides as being of vital constitutional importance.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's duty is to audit public accounts on behalf of Parliament. But under the existing legislation the Comptroller, Mr Gordon Downey, has no direct access to the state industries. So in practice his oversight of public money covers only about 60 per cent of the money spent each year.

Although the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee has been calling for a more independent role for the Comptroller and Auditor General since the mid-Seventies, anger at what backbenchers believe is a high-handed view of ministerial responsibility has been largely from a Government White Paper last year on how to increase the efficiency of the public sector, and a Commons debate on the Public Accounts Committee 1980 report last November. Basically the White Paper rejected the PAC's call for the Comptroller and Auditor General to be appointed by the Queen on the advice of Parliament rather than the Prime Minister and for him to conduct efficiency audits on the nationalised industry sector.

Instead, the Government proposed wider powers for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which would be used as the main external agency for scrutinising the nationalised industries. There would be six state industry references a year rather than the present four so that each industry would be subject to a full scrutiny once every four years.

Additionally professional advisers including management consultants would be brought in to help the staff of the MMC. The Commission's reports would continue to be published and in the interests of Parliament, said Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the industry's response to the report would also be available within three or four months of publication.

However this failed to satisfy many MPs (of all

parties) who saw the issue as the latest chapter in the battle between ministerial prerogative and Parliament's power to monitor and approve public spending. One Conservative MP, Sir Albert Costa, went so far as to say the Government was fortunate there was no vote because for the first time in his life he would have voted against it.

Mr Edward Du Cann, chairman of the powerful Treasury and Civil Services Committee and a former chairman of the PAC said in the November debate that MPs should be ashamed that more types of public expenditure escaped audit than in any other comparable country in the world.

The White Paper, Mr Du Cann said, was a "timid, trivial and disappointing document".

Such was the outcry against the Government's steadfast refusal to allow the Comptroller and Auditor to conduct a full audit that 287 MPs signed an early day motion last December supporting the PAC. This pressure forced the Leader of the Commons Mr Francis Pym to say the Government would reconsider. The Chancellor promised the House a statement early this year.

But in recent weeks, the views of ministers, especially of the Secretary of State for Energy Mr Nigel Lawson,

Industry Secretary Mr Patrick Jenkin and Mr David Howell, the Transport Minister, have hardened around the major principle of ministerial responsibility.

The Government was not prepared to let the PAC and the Comptroller and Auditor General loose among the books of the nationalised industries. Morale and efficiency would be damaged, the management would have less time to run their businesses effectively and risk-taking would be kept to a minimum if every move came under the eagle eye of Parliament and an industrial ombudsman.

Those views are mirrored by the Nationalised Industries Chairman's Group (NICG). Its director Mr Jim Driscoll admits the principle of public accountability, but adds there is a need to strike a balance between the public's requirement's and the demands of running a business.

Already, the industries are subject to parliamentary questions, examination by the Select Committee on Industry, consumer councils, letters from MPs to chairmen which are given high priority, and audits by external firms of accountants. Additionally the NICG approved, albeit in a lukewarm fashion, the extended role of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

"Enough is enough", says Mr Driscoll. "The present arrangements for looking at our books are perfectly satisfactory. There is no benefit in bringing in the Comptroller and Auditor General into the nationalised industries' accounts. He has insufficient experience in handling the affairs of a commercial, public organisation."

"In the battle of the Titans, it is best to keep your head below the parapet."

The Parliamentary champion of reform, Mr Joel Barnett, formerly Chief Secretary to the Treasury clearly feels the issue is of major importance to Parliament.

While agreeing with the Treasury's guiding principles of ministerial responsibility, Mr Barnett believes financial stewardship and prudence in handling public funds, Mr Barnett believes ministerial responsibility is not a real substitute for parliamentary accountability.

"The Government will be seriously miscalculating if it resists the proposals of 287 MPs from all parties, including former Tory ministers and the leaders of the Liberals and Social Democrats."

"If the Government is not sensible on this matter, then there will be fierce resistance from backbenchers."

It seems unlikely that Mr

Barnett, Mr Du Cann and their supporters will be fully satisfied in their desire for a national audit office (which could be headed by the Comptroller and Auditor General) and the right of Parliament rather than the Prime Minister to recommend the appointment to the Crown of the Comptroller and Auditor General. But neither will ministers win their battle to keep full control of the nationalised industries' accounts within their departments.

For it appears that the Treasury, which opposed the PAC last November, is now working out a compromise. Although ministers could not agree on a solution to the issue in the Cabinets E (Economic Committee) last week, discussion is not at an end.

Talks will be held between the Treasury, ministers and probably Mr Barnett and his PAC colleagues before the issue goes into the E committee within the next two weeks.

There are two possible compromises. First, the Comptroller and Auditor General might be involved in nationalised industries audits as a back-up service to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Second, the House of Commons Select Committee on Nationalised Industries could be resurrected. This was abolished in 1979 to make way for a general-purpose Industry and Trade Committee.

Whether these compromises would satisfy the PAC and the backbenchers who signed the motion criticising the White Paper is another matter. The NICG may feel that the PAC proposals in favour of the Comptroller and Auditor General involve more time-consuming appearances and preparation of papers which would duplicate current practice.

But Mr Barnett and his colleagues have the overriding principle of public accountability for public money behind them.

And they could have an ally in the form of the Prime Minister.

Mrs Thatcher is keen to make the public sector more efficient. The Think Tank, which reported on this matter last year, has been instructed to keep a watching brief on ways to improve the performance of the nationalised industries. Such support could be decisive in the battle between Parliament and Government.

Kevin Page

Why the robot army is smaller than it seems

TECHNOLOGY: AUTOMATION

By Clive Cookson

Japan already has 100,000 industrial robots and the Soviet Union will have 100,000 by 1985. Even France boasts 38,000 robots. But backward Britain can claim only a few hundred by the best estimate.

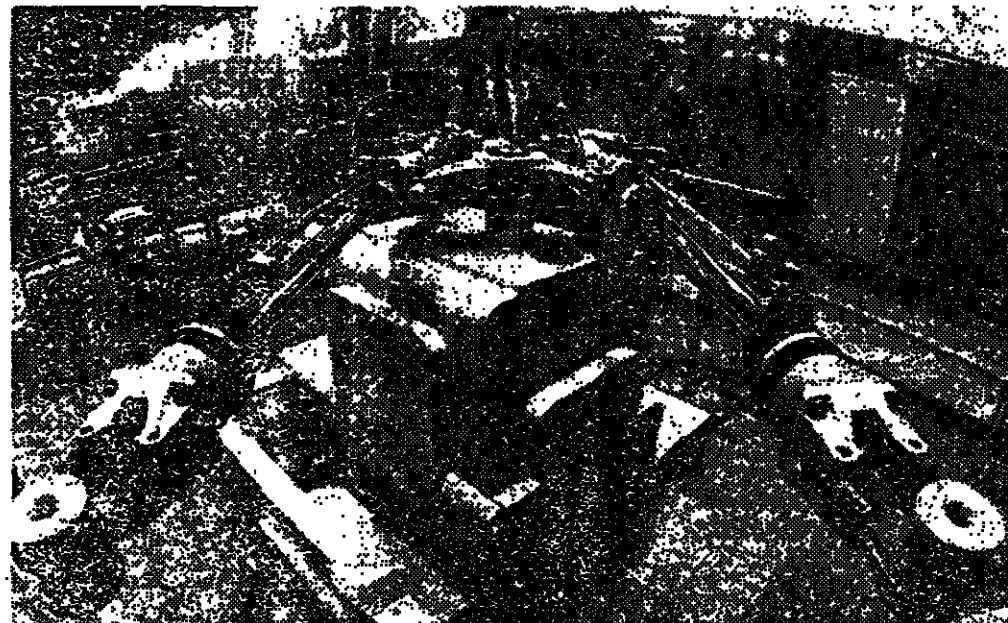
That dismal impression of this country's performance in robotics could have been picked up by a casual (and, admittedly, selective) reading of newspaper reports over the past few months. The reality, as usual, is not nearly so depressing.

The main trouble is that some countries, inate that robot populations, deliberately or otherwise, by adopting a far wider definition of the term than the one recognised in Britain and the United States. The vast majority of the "100,000 robots" identified by a recent Japanese survey are either non-computerized "manual manipulators" operated directly by humans or simple "pick and place" machines following a fixed sequence of actions. Neither category should be dignified by the label "robot".

A true robot must be reprogrammable and must be able to manipulate and transport parts or tools through a variable series of movements. When it is no longer needed for one set of tasks, its electronic brain can be programmed to perform another sequence.

The Japanese may not have set out to overawe us with visions of a vast army of industrial robots; it could just be a genuine difference in terminology. But Mr Tom Brock, executive secretary of the British Robot Association (BRA), insists that the French have gone in for deliberate exaggeration, in pursuit of national glory. He quotes a recent claim that France has 38,000 industrial robots. "If you check with the French figures because they want to be Europe's number one in robots," Mr Brock said.

The BRA gives Britain a respectable fifth place in its annual census, announced last week, showed that the UK robot population increased by 90 per cent during 1981 and stood at 731 at the end of the year. First came Japan with 10,000 industrial robots, fol-



Getting to grips with automation — a Soviet robot designed for use in the injection moulding process on show at the recent Russian Economic Achievement Exhibition.

lowed by the United States (5,000), West Germany (2,300) and Sweden (1,700).

According to the BRA, Britain has moved ahead of its closest European rivals, France and Italy, despite the £8m that Renault has spent on robot research and development over the past six years. Olivetti's leading role in robot design, and Fiat's early commitment to robotics in car manufacturing.

France is given 600 robots and Italy 450 (only 50 more than a year ago). Other Western countries have 1,500 between them.

The BRA is one of the few authorities to place less than half of the world robot population in Japan. Others give the Japanese a more commanding lead. For example the Robot Institute of America estimated last year that Japan had 14,200 robots, compared to just over 4,000 in the United States. In Britain, the large British management consultancy whose study *Industrial Robots in Japan, USA and UK* was published this month, says: "Secretiveness about the extent of robot utilization in many Japanese companies makes it difficult to judge the real extent of robot use in that country."

"In Japan this secrecy is facilitated by well established lateral industrial relationships which, whilst making it difficult for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to supply its robots to Toyota, for

example, also ensures that Mitsubishi Motors' technological applications are not leaked to its rivals in other groups," the Inabucan report says.

In contradiction to the BRA, Inabucan states: "Despite these statistical uncertainties, it is quite clear that over half the robots working in the world today are in use in Japan."

The problem of secretiveness is of course far worse with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The Russians are known to be making a major drive to install robots in their factories, to replace idle and unreliable Soviet workers as quickly as possible, but no "blue in the face" has a reliable estimate of their success. Last week's claim by Novosti Press Agency that the USSR will have 100,000 robots by 1986 seems wildly optimistic. A reasonable estimate for the number of Soviet robots today would be 3,000.

When we look back from the perspective of the next century, we may decide that no company in the world in 1982 was using what we then understood by a robot. For the terminology is likely to move on with the technology, leaving behind today's extremely primitive "first generation" machines.

The "one-armed bandit" robots we use now are "blind, deaf, dumb devices screwed to the floor", to use the words of Mr Peter Davey

who runs the Science and Engineering Research Council's Industrial Robotics Initiative.

Today's industrial robot will perform exactly the same sequence of actions, regardless of circumstances, until a human reprogrammes it to do something different.

The second generation of machines, being developed in academic and industrial research laboratories around the world, will have the intelligence that many people associate with a true robot. They will have a sense of touch, sight and/or hearing and their behaviour will change automatically in response to signals.

Intelligent robots, with sensors and enough computing power to copy with disorder and variations in their work, should start to appear on factory floors in the United States and Japan within the next year or two. IBM's first commercial robot which may be unveiled at next month's Society of Manufacturing Engineers robots show in Detroit, is expected to be a major step in the direction of intelligence.

Britain's national research and development programme in industrial robotics is coordinated by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), which will spend £1.1m this year supporting 22 research partnerships between universities and polytechnics.

Business Editor

More pieces for the jigsaw

It has been something of a puzzle trying to reconcile the mid-winter faltering in industrial output with the recent buoyancy of bank lending — the latest figures putting the rise in the six weeks to mid-January, at an uncomfortable £1,680m.

Part of the rise in bank lending has, of course, been attributable to the sharp rise in mortgage lending by the banks, together with borrowing to finance tax payments deferred during the civil servants' dispute.

But after yesterday's figures for manufacturers' and distributors' stocks it would seem that a good deal of the rest can now be put down to a virtual end to destocking in the fourth quarter of last year.

That, of course, does not square the circle completely, since it does not fit in cleanly with the temporary lapse in industrial output. The missing link here must be higher imports.

None of this in any case gives us any definite evidence as to which way the economy is likely to move in the immediate future.

The overall destocking figure was helped considerably by direct manufacturing. Are these latter stocks moving on to the consumer? Or do they represent involuntary stockholding following a bout of over-optimism by shops and stores?

Investment With hindsight

At first sight the latest figures on capital spending make gloomy reading. Record spending by distributive and service industries in 1981 was not enough to outweigh a slump in direct manufacturing investment of 17½ per cent.

Even including the booming leasing business, manufacturer's investment was down 13½ per cent. The fall recorded for manufacturing, distributive and service industries as a whole was 4.6 per cent.

But a look back at past investment figures suggests that first impressions may be misleading. The statistics show a disconcerting tendency to improve with time.

Roger Lightgate, economic director of stockbrokers Hoare Govett, has been waging a one-man good news campaign (some hopeful Government ministers apart) on the British economy for some time. He points out that progress in the recent past always looks worse than in previous years because of data revisions, with capital spending figures a leading villain. The table suggests he may be right.

Whatever the reasons, if 1981 turns out like the two recent years, the fall in investment may ultimately prove to have been very modest. If this is so, prospects for the economy could yet confound the pessimists.

More than half of the 2,300 guarantees given so far have been for newly created businesses, a clear sign, said Mr Jenkin, that the scheme was plugging a gap in the system. He did not add, however, that the scheme would lead to see even more incentives announced in next month's Budget. Even so, the fact that some dynamism has been put into the process of making smaller businesses aware of the many schemes available to them must be considered an exercise that has been worthwhile.

After the heavy staging of Amersham International and the likelihood of a hefty premium in first dealings next week, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, may well be wondering how he would like to see the BNOC flotation carried out. Clearly there would be considerable embarrassment for the Government in being seen to sell off oil assets "too cheaply", particularly if overseas investors are to be allowed in on the issue. Yet there remains a considerable reluctance on the part of those involved in the City to come up with the most obvious alternative, the sale by tender with stock going to the highest bidder. Mr Lawson has enough experience of the City to insist that it uses its brain power to come up with something appreciably better than we have seen in the cases of Amersham and British Aerospace.

CAPITAL SPENDING

% change on previous year	est/Jan 1979	1980	1981
1st	4.2	-0.05	-4.6
2nd	4.9	0.2	
3rd	7.1	-0.07	
4th	10.8	2.4	

Computers The long view

The Department of Industry and Science and Engineering Research Council are still arguing with computing experts from universities and industry over Britain's best response to Japan's grandiose "fifth generation" computer project. Proponents of a £250m

Goode Durrant & Murray
Group plc

Chairman Lionel Robinson reports on the results to 31st October 1981

● Pre-tax Profit £2,301,000 up 28%

● Shareholders' funds £11,373,000 up £1,663,000	● Dividend increased from 15½% to 17½% covered 5.1 times
● Net assets 45p per ordinary share up 7p	● Southern African profit £588,000 up 52%
● UK housebuilding profit £710,000 up 37%	● New Zealand departmental store profit £741,000 up 26%

Crisis in football: Special report on problems facing League chairmen at their seminar this weekend... and a view from the stands

Why the game must change now or die

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Football has hobbled the last few years and now stands at the crossroads. As it leans heavily on the shoulders of support, the League chairmen can point the way ahead at their seminar this weekend. Should they take the wrong path, the game will limp on aimlessly down some road. Should they take the right road, it can still catch up with reality even at this late juncture.

The journey since the war is littered with milestones. In 1949 when there were fewer competitive interests the total attendances reached a peak of 41,271,414. In 1961 the maximum weekly wage limit of £15 was abolished and the level has since risen by a hundredfold. In 1966 England won the World Cup and the steady fall in gates was temporarily halted.

In 1977 Bob Latchford became the first player to cost £300,000 and within two years the transfer fees had soared through the seven figure barrier. In 1978 the players won for themselves a freedom that frightened clubs into offering the moon to their stars and lengthy contracts which were often indirectly linked to success that could not be guaranteed. Bristol City is a case in point.

Behind these significant landmarks lay a warning backcloth. Although income was decreasing as consistently and as alarmingly as the outgoings were increasing, the industry, blighted by misguided optimism, declined to regard the need to bring in either professional advice or to take financial opportunities. "The game", as Alec Stock, a Birmingham director, said, "has brought us greed, indiscipline and ill manners." In short, it was bleeding to death and the recession only hastened its possible demise.

No one should doubt the gravity of the present picture. Already this season four League clubs, Plymouth Argyle, Bristol City, Oxford United and Halifax Town, have been close to, even minutes away from, extinction. Last Monday's *World in Action* programme on television estimated that football clubs are £60m in debt, that a dozen clubs may go into liquidation before the end of this season and that 51 (surely a conservative figure) need to cut their wage bills.

If the chairmen remain entrenched now, as they have done in the past, then the future will be even bleaker. Two years ago they approved merely three points for a win, Sunday football and an agreement which should now be hardened not to poach another club's manager during the season. This weekend they must recommend radical changes which will be put

12-point plan for survival

1. Reduce fixtures: Divs 1 and 2 to have 18 and 20 clubs each.
2. Regionalization: Divs 3 and 4 to be divided into 3 regions; encourage part-time professionals.
3. Extend use of grounds; improve facilities.
4. Limit transfer fees.
5. Scale wages: need for maximum basic wage and incentive schemes.
6. Better deal from TV and pools.
7. New sponsors; better marketing techniques.
8. Better management: different roles for team manager and commercial manager.
9. Give team managers greater security.
10. Formalize chairmen's "gentlemen's agreement" on poaching.
11. Hooligans: sever penalties; clubs should take action.
12. International success: a priority.

before the Football League at their annual general meeting in June.

The first division should be reduced to 18 teams. Fixture congestion, exacerbated by this winter's bad weather, would be eased and the tide would be claimed as it should be by the best team, not necessarily by the side that avoids injuries and is involved only in the championship itself.

Although each first division club would lose gate receipts for the eight missing matches, the remaining 34 fixtures would be of such improved quality that their crowds would undoubtedly rise. Arsenal, for instance, attracted their worst crowd at Highbury for 15 years last Tuesday night even though their win took them up into third place. The visitors were Middlesbrough, almost out of sight at the bottom.

All this would help the international managers, for too long forced to huddle around their telephones on the Saturday night before an international. In a World Cup year when the holders, Argentina, will spend two months in preparation, Britain's national team leaders will be fortunate to have much more than a week to gather together their squads at the end of an unbroken nine months' preparation.

Cut the second division to 20 clubs and, by inviting six non-league sides to join the outstanding 54, introduce three regionalized third divisions (the North, the Midlands and the South), sharing the 20 clubs. Geographical lines need not be drawn in ink and the

champions of each section would gain promotion, subject to facilities, to the second division. The bottom two in the first and the bottom three in the second would be relegated.

Re-election would be sought by the bottom two in each of the lower three sections, where all 60 clubs would have the option of going part-time. Although it would be impracticable and inadvisable to restrict the number of players at each club, wage bills, the heaviest cost for all clubs, should be controlled by re-introducing a maximum wage appropriate to each division. Appearance money and bonuses could then be offered to satisfy players' demands.

Transfer fees, as few would dispute, also gone beyond the bounds of reason. The system used in Europe related to age and wages, should be applied; half of the agreed fee should be paid immediately and the other half should be handed over within a year. West Bromwich Albion, for example, are unlikely to receive a penny of the £1.5m paid for Robson and Moses until 1984.

Television companies, whose contracts with the two associations expire next year, should be asked to pay a more realistic figure (at present £25,000 for each club for four years), to limit coverage, especially edited highlights, and to permit short advertisements. Television, though, has helped to broaden spectators' desire to attend matches.

The Football League's contract with the pools companies, absurdly underestimated at 2 per cent royalties of gross stakes after the deduction of betting duty, still has four years to run, but should also be examined. Last year it yielded little more than £3m.

It is a startling statistic that clubs open their doors to the public for perhaps forty hours a year and expect to pay their way. Stadiums, huge archaic monuments to the past, are grossly underdeveloped and under-used. Pitches, for a start, should be improved and ground sharing then becomes a sensible possibility. Synthetic turf, an experiment worth trying, is not the answer because it changes the nature of the game as fundamentally as would a summer season.

Football has for too long pulled its cloth over its eyes. This weekend the chairmen must look towards a new dawn. The consequences of not doing so are surely fearful enough. As Jimmy Hill, Coventry City's representative, said this week: "The train stood still for 100 years so it was some achievement to get it going at three miles per hour two years ago. We know at least that the train is moving. Let us hope we can accelerate to 15 mph." Or even faster.



Come on you Cobblers. But there are not many to cheer for Northampton.

How the fans stayed away

By Norman Fox

In the last five seasons more than four and a quarter million people have stopped watching Football League matches. In the following survey of 90 clubs (Southport and Workington have dropped out and been replaced by Wigan and Wimbledon), 65 show falling attendances.

The heaviest loss has been suffered by Newcastle United

(-19,467). Five seasons ago they were in the first division

attracting average gates of more than 35,000. They were the fourth most successful home crowd-pullers in the League. Last season, in the second division, their average gate had slumped to 16,001.

Bristol City's financial problems are directly related to an average loss of 15,209 through the turnstiles. However, even clubs supposed to be stable and financially well established

are showing serious crowd losses.

Manchester United are still the most successful in attracting home crowds but their average attendance has dropped by 8,638. Liverpool have lost 9,672 spectators, or nearly a fifth of their support. Birmingham City have lost a third and for Queen's Park Rangers relegation to the second division has cost them more than half of their supporters.

Division One	1976/77	1980/81	Difference
Manchester United	33,709	45,071	+ 11,362
Liverpool	47,220	37,547	- 9,673
Manchester City	40,058	33,386	- 6,672
Newcastle United	35,489	16,001 (Div 2)	- 19,488
Aston Villa	34,759	33,541	- 1,218
Sunderland	32,743	26,477	- 6,266
Leeds	32,671	32,489	- 182
Leeds United	30,530	21,377	- 9,153
Tottenham Hotspur	30,174	30,724	+ 550
Everton	30,068	26,135	- 3,933
Birmingham City	28,338	19,246	- 9,092
Sheff Wed	28,219	25,619	- 2,600
West Ham United	26,063	20,140 (Div 2)	- 5,923
Derby County	25,008	18,882 (Div 2)	- 6,126
Nottingham Forest	24,874	9,783 (Div 2)	- 15,091
West Brom Albion	24,524	20,351	- 4,173
Nottingham Forest	22,304	17,149	- 5,155
Sheff Wed	21,478	18,432	- 3,046
Coventry City	21,242	18,934	- 2,308
Queens Park Rangers	21,081	10,938 (Div 2)	- 10,143
Leicester City	18,806	15,476	- 3,330

Division Three	1976/77	1980/81	Difference
Brighon	20,199	18,894 (Div 1)	- 1,305
Crystal Palace	18,106	19,280 (Div 1)	+ 1,174
Sheff Wed	13,683	18,624 (Div 2)	+ 4,941
Portsmouth	11,303	13,514	+ 2,211
Sheff Wed	9,327	6,485 (Div 2)	- 2,842
Millwall	8,439	3,400 (Div 4)	- 5,039
Swindon Town	8,393	6,833	- 1,560
Preston North End	7,987	7,531 (Div 2)	- 456
Reading	7,175	4,718 (Div 4)	- 2,457
Reading	6,761	5,439	- 1,322
Nottingham Forest	6,682	7,895	+ 1,213
Sheff Wed	6,485	2,305 (Div 4)	- 4,180
Northampton	5,967	2,008 (Div 4)	- 3,959
Sheff Wed	5,497	4,255	- 1,242
Gillingham	5,478	2,143	- 3,335
Chesham	5,321	7,331	+ 2,010
Bury	5,299	2,742 (Div 4)	- 2,557
Sheff Wed	5,181	4,132	- 1,049
Sheff Wed	4,974	5,618 (Div 2)	+ 644
Sheff Wed	4,762	4,762	0
Grimsby Town	4,727	10,361	+ 5,634
Port Vale	4,356	2,738 (Div 4)	- 1,618
Sheff Wed	4,261	2,291 (Div 4)	- 1,970
Sheff Wed	3,430	2,204 (Div 4)	- 1,226

Division Two	1976/77	1980/81	Difference
Sheff Wed	30,637	12,738	- 17,899
Sheff Wed	21,794	8,847	- 12,947
Sheff Wed	21,226	21,551 (Div 1)	+ 325
Sheff Wed	19,430	21,481 (Div 1)	+ 2,051
Sheff Wed	18,872	24,485 (Div 1)	+ 5,613
Sheff Wed	18,779	12,772 (Div 3)	- 6,007
Sheff Wed	14,589	5,000 (Div 3)	- 9,589
Sheff Wed	13,835	5,865 (Div 3)	- 7,970
Sheff Wed	13,329	6,763 (Div 3)	- 6,566
Sheff Wed	12,785	6,787	- 6,000
Sheff Wed	12,173	6,463 (Div 3)	- 5,710
Sheff Wed	11,814	10,291	- 1,523
Sheff Wed	11,203	8,551	- 2,652
Sheff Wed	10,507	7,204 (Div 3)	- 3,303
Sheff Wed	10,051	4,494 (Div 3)	- 5,557
Sheff Wed	9,823	1,683	- 8,140
Sheff Wed	9,844	8,510	- 1,334
Sheff Wed	8,430	5,929	- 2,501
Sheff Wed	7,823	5,318 (Div 3)	- 2,505
Sheff Wed	7,679	4,064 (Div 3)	- 3,615
Sheff Wed	7,238	2,444 (Div 4)	- 4,794
Sheff Wed	6,221	5,078	- 1,143

Division Four	1976/77	1980/81	Difference
Sheff Wed	8,148	11,546 (Div 3)	+ 3,398
Sheff Wed	6,033	10,108 (Div 2)	+ 4,075
Sheff Wed	5,630	2,858	- 2,772
Sheff Wed	5,551	6,095	+ 544
Sheff Wed	5,548	12,143 (Div 2)	+ 6,595
Sheff Wed	5,538	10,800 (Div 2)	+ 5,262
Sheff Wed	5,120	6,752 (Div 3)	+ 1,632
Sheff Wed	4,662	2,603 (Div 3)	- 2,059
Sheff Wed	4,532	4,559 (Div 3)	+ 27
Sheff Wed	4,523	1,824 (Div 2)	- 2,699
Sheff Wed	4,057	2,335	- 1,722
Sheff Wed	4,035	3,380	- 655
Sheff Wed	3,980	1,824	- 2,156
Sheff Wed	3,887	2,387	- 1,500
Sheff Wed	2,997	2,650	- 347
Sheff Wed	2,743	2,537	- 206
Sheff Wed	2,611	5,883 (Div 3)	+ 3,272
Sheff Wed	2,378	2,908	+ 530
Sheff Wed	2,340	1,824	- 516
Sheff Wed	1,911	3,115	+ 1,204
Sheff Wed	1,744	2,460	+ 716
Sheff Wed	1,639	1,383	- 256
Sheff Wed	1,393	—	—
Sheff Wed	—	4,334	+ 4,334
Sheff Wed	—	2,484	+ 2,484

Great divide between rich and poor clubs

By Hunter Davies

I went on a tour of Spurs' new stand last week and kept thinking about Disraeli. Football these days is two Nations. Nowhere can you see it more clearly than at Tottenham Hotspur.

The imbalance amongst clubs is well publicised. Some are going bankrupt while others can spend £1m on one player. The difference, between the players' lives is equally great. Glen Hoddle, aged 24, lives in a £100,000 house and can earn £50,000 a year from football. Down in the fourth division some of his fellow professionals are struggling on £5,000 a year, buying for part-time work to pay the rent.

But the contrast in how fans are treated is less well known. Even inside the same club, the differences are astonishing. Last Saturday I queued for an hour to get into Spurs' then stood in squalor, exposed to the elements, unable to move and find a lavatory, although that would be equally squalid, if I had any refreshments, that would mean another queue and missing half the match.

It was a terrific game. No fan has any means when the team is doing well. Most real fans prefer to stand shoulder to shoulder in the primitive terraces, part of the cheers and the jeers, sharing communally in the excitement. We would like a bit more seating, but most of us do not want to be hermetically sealed behind plate glass windows, watching the match in our own padded box.

That is the way the game is going at least at the top end of the market. Spurs' new stand is the most modern, the most luxurious in Britain. Clubs who have created new stands and installed luxury boxes including Manchester United, Coventry City, Nottingham Forest, Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion, Queen's Park Rangers, Leicester City, Fulham and Orient. All of them, so they say, need to create their own atmosphere and get in some vital "up-front" money, otherwise they could not have built a new stand in the first place.

If you hurry, there are some boxes at Spurs still for sale. At only £3,000 each. For this price, you can have an eight-seater box for the next three years for you and your friends, or your children. You can sit in a gold armchair and have the use of a cocktail cabinet, fridge, small kitchen and your own hostess. Each of the 72 boxes also has its own phone and colour TV. Drinks and meals cost extra, about £9 for a four course lunch served in your box. You can also use the hotel's lounge which is about the same size and style, as the reception area of a medium sized Hilton hotel.

As I was standing in an outer office, waiting to talk to

the Spurs commercial manager, Mike Lewis, there was a call from the Dorchester Hotel, to say that an Arab prince wanted a box for Saturday. It's Manchester City tomorrow, not the very best of the season's attractions, so a box for that match costs £550. The price for a one-off match, goes from £475 to £600.

"We've sold 34 out of the 72 boxes so far," said Mr Lewis. "I think that's a better record than any other club at the time of their opening."

The Spurs' new stand was officially opened two weeks ago, when the ceremony was performed by Stanley Rous. Mostly big companies, Baxi, on the rail, and they include Barclays, Bank, Beecham's Foods, National Giro, Mecca and Tesco, all of whom have their name plates at the entrance hall. Last week, a local pub, the Railway Tavern, also got a name up, just for one match, for £500. One firm, Brown and Jackson, surprised them all by buying a 21-year lease on a box. They see it as an investment.

Mr Lewis has seen for himself how the other half lives in football. He came from Newport and after several years as a fund-raiser for children's charities he joined his local club in 1976, his first job in football, to try to help them from financial disaster.

My first job at Newport was to go and get a ball for the lads to play with. They'd painted up all the old boys so often they were beginning to look like rugby balls. The refs used to look at our ball on match day, give a wink, and pass it as new for the match itself. They knew we couldn't afford anything better."

No sports shop in Newport would help him. He had to start running up so many debts. "I had to go to Ebbw Vale, and find a shop who didn't know about us," Mr Lewis said. When Mr Lewis arrived as commercial manager four years ago, Spurs' income from sponsorship, lotteries, etc. was £40,000. This year they should earn £1.1m. A club which can pull in that sort of money must have a healthy future.

When poor old Chelsea invested their £1m in a brave new stadium, they had a shock. At only £3,000 each. For this price, you can have an eight-seater box for the next three years for you and your friends, or your children. You can sit in a gold armchair and have the use of a cocktail cabinet, fridge, small kitchen and your own hostess. Each of the 72 boxes also has its own phone and colour TV. Drinks and meals cost extra, about £9 for a four course lunch served in your box. You can also use the hotel's lounge which is about the same size and style, as the reception area of a medium sized Hilton hotel.

As I was standing in an outer office, waiting to talk to

The chairmen

'Players would not agree to take less money if relegated'

Stephen Kew invented the chairmen's seminar but he will not be there this weekend. He resigned some two months ago from his position at Bristol City, the club that became the first to suffer from the freedom of contract and almost went into liquidation because of it. Four years ago City's Gary Collier was the first player to take advantage of the system when he decided to move to Coventry City. An independent tribunal set the transfer fee at £350,000.

Mr Kew's opposite number at the tribunal was Jimmy Hill. Later they discussed the idea of talking rather than making speeches and two years later the first seminar took place. Bristol were then in the first division with six players on lengthy contracts. Although their wages remained constant, the club slid down two divisions in two years. Hence, eventually, the Ashton Gate night saga.

"Football is an instant business," Mr Kew says. "Supporters judge teams on Saturday results. We have to take risks and our paid off when we rose to the top. It also better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. I championed Alan Dicks, our manager, and when he came to us and said we must keep what we've got because we haven't any money, we agreed to offer these long contracts."

Jimmy Hill
Coventry City
"The downward trend in attendances has continued since the chairman last met and we can't even say whether we've hit the bottom yet. The seminar is 100 times more important than the last one. Instead of there being 92 clubs spread across the country, we might soon have just 16."

"It is no use merely pruning and attacking the periphery. To talk about economic and subsidising is to avoid dealing with the central problem. We must be more positive. We need to make Saturday afternoons more enjoyable, then market the product and prove that it is more enjoyable. We may be given a lifeline this weekend."

The manager

'Bring in the professionals to balance the books'

It must be one of the answers to the future, I think, though, that the two Bristols might become one club.

"Transfers have begun to level out and will continue to do so. I can't see any more £1m fees. They do at least keep the money in the game but it is important that the whole amount be paid immediately. I know we still owe Newcastle United for some of Harford's transfer fee but we were owed money ourselves."

We were accused of mismanagement at Bristol. We were also criticised for not buying players. Alan Dicks kept on suggesting people he wanted to get but when we approached the bank manager, he said we couldn't afford it. We were criticised for buying players. We couldn't win either way.

We can produce the best of ideas in the boardroom but principles go out of the window once people are in power. Then they become the most selfish people in the world. I think football will survive, though, as long as players and managers, in the widest sense, agree to see the game flourish. Captains should be invited to board meetings, for instance, and there should be more consultations. At the moment the relationship between players and directors is too distant. This country needs football. It is part of our establishment. Like *The Times*.

Ernie Clay
Fulham
"Until 1981, the management committee raped the game even more than Afghanistan was. They showed no foresight in negotiating the pools contract and threw away a fortune. Given 10 per cent of an annual £135m turnover and we could be playing behind closed doors if we wanted to. The committee has built a Kremlin in our democratic society. They should leave after six consecutive years in office and retire at the age of 65. We need fresh water in the stagnant pool. Reduce the league as a whole and force club directors to commit themselves financially. Then they can't fake heart attacks or just resign."

The manager

'Bring in the professionals to balance the books'

Malcolm Macdonald, of Fulham and one of the youngest managers in the Football League, has a remarkable vision of the future. It is built in the shape of a pyramid. First division sides, he feels, should be back by those over down and out of the 92 clubs should, like water, be allowed to find their own level.

The home side should keep all the gate receipts," he says. "Fifty per cent of the transfer fees should be paid straight away, the rest within a year. Clubs would then discover how viable they are. Players should receive a limited basic wage, but should be given an incentive by being offered bonuses and appearance money."

The freedom of contract brought with it a Catch-22. To hold on to players, managers are forced to offer them rich and lengthy contracts which encourage apathy. If they are to be able to afford these amounts, they may have to sell. John Neal must have cried for six months when he sold Peterborough to the club of Armstrong, Johnston and Proctor. What a fabulous unit they could have been.

If a club cannot afford to stay in the first division, it should not be there. That would improve the standard at the top and those who want to

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Macdonald: "Home side should keep gate receipts"

join should have to prove to the league that they can cope before being promoted. Clubs that reduce their playing staff and increase admission prices because, after all, the public must pay for success.

"Football clubs must be run in a professional way. All the directors should receive a share of the profits but they would treat this game as they would their own business? Too often they treat the position as a status symbol. They show ego, heart, ambition, idiosyncrasy and a lack of knowledge."

"A manager paints a rosy picture, he has to. He will say he needs £200,000 to buy

The manager

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two players and they react like schoolboys and rot off to the bank manager. When results don't go well, he will say that he needs just one more player to complete the side. Another £100,000 would fix it. They don't realize that relegation can knock £100,000 off the value of each player, gates drop and you're still left with the same outgoings."

"We have four managers here in charge of finance, commerce, football and rugby league as well as the chairman. We must all work harder and either entertain or get out. When I find I am looking for 0-0 draws, then I'll retire."

"There is no point in changing the laws. The three points for a win has not made any difference. I worked out last season's tables and I think there would have been only one change in the promotion issues. The summer idea is lovely. I would like to see it tried for perhaps a year but I can't see it happening. We don't like change in this country, do we?"

He said: "It was said that the league did not go to Bristol City's assistance.

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World Service

World Service can be received in Europe on medium wave (548 kHz) the following News GMT: 5.00am-7.00 World News, 7.58 Twenty-four News, 10.15 News, 11.59 News, 7.45 Merchant Navy Pro-gram, 8.00 World News, 8.00 Reflections, 8.30am-9.00am The Day After Tomorrow, 9.30 World News, 9.09 The British Press, 9.15 The World, 9.30 Financial News, 9.40 Local Music News, 10.15 Merchant Navy Pro-gram, 10.30 Business Matters.

[illegible]

CENTRAL

on except: 11.35-12.00
Diff. Different. 1.20 pm-1.30
45 Film: The Card (Also
on 4.15) Johnny Johnson
in many ingenious ways of
his bank account and his
society. 4.10-4.15 Windmills.
90 News. 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy.
10.00 News. 11.05
of Glory (Alec Guinness,
G. A. Disraeli) C. 11.30
regiment crosses swords with
ard-drinking predecessor.
Close-down.

TSW

on except: 11.55 am-12.00
4.5-15 Film: Colour Scheme
a posthouse and sabotage at
a guest house. 5.15-5.45
Farm. 8.00 Today South
7.00 What's Ahead. 7.30-
to Hart. 10.32 News. 10.35

been Hamner, the archetypal political opportunist. Tim Pigott-Smith has only occasionally let the slippery character slide from his grasp. He has, however, had less assistance than the Wake-up department than the rest of the cast whose gradual ageing has been wonderful to watch.

● **THE LAST RECORDING**
(Radio 4, 3.02) is by the dramatist/musicoologist Douglas Slater whose play has been a surprise success. The music is enjoyed. It is supposed to be the last recording Elgar ever made. He lies on his death bed, relayed messages to the conductor far away in the studio and listening to the music as it is relayed back to him: Timothy West, formerly Becham, is now Elgar.

**WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: STEREO
W, BLACK, AND WHITE (S) REPEAT**

TV WEST

As London except: 1.15-5pm-12.00
Cartoon, 2.15pm-3.30 News, 2.45-
4.15 Film: Lost David Farrier, David
Knight) Baby son of an American
couple in London goes missing. 5.15-
5.45 Benson, 6.00 News, 6.30-7.00
Mr and Mrs, 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy, 10.28
News, 10.30 Good Neighbour Show,
11.00 News, 11.30-12.00 News
Film: Lost Honour of Katharina Blum
(Angelika Winkler) German film of an
innocent girl who gets involved with a
suspicious drunk robber, 1.40pm
Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV Wales except: 11.34am-11.49
As Wales, 12.00-12.10pm
Ffithablen, 4.15-4.45 Adcryn
1.00pm-1.30pm News, 6.15-6.30
Report Wales, 10.30-11.00 Outdop.

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MPs talk of crime and punishment

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